

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 20, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Engineering & Operations Committee--Information)
(Land Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Update on the Lake Mathews Water Quality Management Plan

Report

This report is an update on the development of a plan for protecting the water quality in Lake Mathews from stormwater runoff generated in the watershed. Adoption of this water quality management plan would allow urbanization of the watershed to proceed. In a January 1992 Board letter, you were informed about the plan components, financing for the plan and Metropolitan's environmental documentation for the plan's Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The plan, developed cooperatively by the County of Riverside, Metropolitan, and major developers in the watershed, consists of a number of structural and nonstructural best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented in a phased manner in the watershed. The structural components include a series of engineered wetlands, designed to reduce flow and pollutant load in normal-sized storms. A dam and detention basin, designed to capture and store stormwater from large-sized storm events, will be constructed on Metropolitan's property immediately upstream of Lake Mathews on Cajalco Creek. The total estimated cost of the plan components is approximately \$20 million.

As planned, construction of these facilities and their operation, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting will be paid for by the future residents of the watershed by means of a benefit assessment district (BAD) to be created over the benefiting properties. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is presently developing the BAD and associated area drainage plan. It is anticipated that Metropolitan's costs for planning and construction will be reimbursed by a loan from the California State Non-point Source Pollution Control Revolving Fund established in accordance with the Clean Water Act. Riverside County has made several presentations to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and has recently submitted the loan application, including the

draft EIR and plan for their review. Loan approval is being requested by January, 1993. However, the EIR must be finalized before the SWRCB can approve the loan.

The EIR for the plan was released for public comment on September 25 and the comment period will close on November 13, 1992. It will be submitted for approval to the Riverside County Planning Commission on November 18 and for certification by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors on December 15. Metropolitan's staff have reviewed and provided comments on the EIR. It is anticipated that the EIR will be submitted for certification by your Board in a December 1992, or January, 1993, Board letter. Accompanying the EIR will be a Board letter requesting General Manager's authority to enter into an Implementation Agreement between the cooperators establishing terms and conditions for financing construction and operation of the facilities.

The public notice comment period for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permits closes on November 16, 1992, and permits are expected to be issued by February 1, 1993. Applications for the California Department of Fish and Game 1600 Agreements were submitted on October 15, 1992 and are expected to be issued by February 1, 1993. Also on October 15, applications for Section 401 Water Quality Certification were submitted to the SWRCB. These certifications are expected to be issued by December 1, 1992.

The environmental tasks remaining will be handled by the Planning Division as part of the Lake Mathews Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which is being developed to cover the mitigation requirements of this and other Metropolitan future projects. (The Board will be separately briefed on the Plan at a subsequent meeting.)

In summary, a number of critical path items for the Lake Mathews water quality management plan are expected to be completed within the next several months. After obtaining the necessary documentation and funding, it is anticipated that the plan would be implemented in parallel with development in the watershed.

This informational letter regards the preparation of an EIR in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for information to:

The Engineering and Operations Committee because of its jurisdiction over construction, operation, and maintenance of Metropolitan facilities, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2431; and

The Land Committee because of its jurisdiction over purchase, sale, and leasing of land and buildings, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2451 (b).

Recommendation

For information only.


Carl Boronkay

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