

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 17, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Information)  
 (Engineering & Operations Committee--Info)  
 (Organization & Personnel Committee--Info)

From: General Manager

Subject: Minority, Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Program

Report

In September 1992, your Board adopted the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) policy which states that:

It is the declared policy of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to implement a program that will aid, counsel and assist, insofar as is legally permissible, the participation of minority and women-owned business enterprises in contracts for Metropolitan properties, facilities and services.

In conjunction with the adoption of the M/WBE policy, your Board directed the General Manager to establish and monitor an M/WBE Program (Program) to support this policy. In October 1992, the major components of this Program were outlined and reported to your Board. While fully detailed procedures for this Program have not been developed, there has been continued progress in this effort.

The Personnel Division has initiated the selection process for an Administrator for the Program. The Program Administrator will play a key role in disseminating information to minority and women-owned businesses, responding to inquiries from interested parties and providing assistance or guidance they may require. It is anticipated that this position will be filled no later than February 1993.

The Administrative Services Division has contracted with an independent consultant during this interim period in order to ensure continued progress relative to the Program.

Because of the number and magnitude of contracts, the Engineering and Administrative Services divisions have established one position in each division to act as a liaison between the division and the M/WBE Program Administrator. This organizational structure will be considered for other major divisions.

Active outreach to minority and women-owned businesses has continued and since January 1992, Metropolitan has committed a dollar total of \$106 million in agreements and construction awards, including \$9.9 million awarded to M/WBE, or 9.2 percent.

The Domenigoni Valley Reservoir Project is an example of the progress being made in this area. The Ralph M. Parsons Company (Parsons), program manager for project design, has minority participation of 41.6 percent. Additionally, Parsons has committed to add two M/WBE firms to their team, including Cordova Corporation and E. W. Moon, Inc.

Ebasco Services (Ebasco), the project design consultant, has committed to award up to 12% of its design and field investigation work load to minority or women-owned businesses, and lists ten M/WBE firms who will be asked to provide personnel or services to their team in their proposal.

The Domenigoni Valley Reservoir Project has employed numerous consultants who perform services on a retainer basis. Of these firms, the current total contract value dedicated to M/WBE firms is 14.8 percent.

Metropolitan participated in an Informational Hearing on October 28, 1992, sponsored by the Assembly Select Committee on Economic Opportunity. Metropolitan's M/WBE Program was discussed at this hearing. A follow-up hearing is anticipated in 1993, at which time the Assembly is expected to determine the degree of progress made relative to M/WBE contracting opportunities with Metropolitan.

Assemblywoman Moore was particularly concerned about how Metropolitan plans to handle M/WBE participation for the Domenigoni project. Consequently, she was invited to tour the project site on November 24, 1992.

Metropolitan received a letter dated October 28, 1992 from Assemblywoman Lucille Roybal-Allard which congratulates Metropolitan on adopting an M/WBE Policy and Program.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for information to:

The Executive Committee pursuant to Section 2417(e) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to policies and procedures to be considered by the Board.

The Engineering and Operations Committee pursuant to Section 2431(a) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to plans, specifications and bids.

The Organization and Personnel Committee pursuant to Section 2471(f) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code to study, advise and make recommendations with regard to the selection of management and personnel consultants.

Recommendation

For information only.

  
Carl Boronkay

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