



**MWD**

*METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*

7-5

November 23, 1992

*To:* Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)  
(Water Problems Committee--Action)

*From:* General Manager

*Subject:* Water Conservation Legislation Regarding Best Management Practices

Report

The Urban Water Conservation Best Management Practices (BMP) are a list of sixteen measures developed in response to the lack of agreement over water conservation estimates during the Bay/Delta hearings. Metropolitan was a leader in the BMP process development, which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by 104 water agencies and 14 environmental organizations as of this date. Signatories to the MOU pledge to implement the measures on a voluntary "good-faith effort" basis. Presently, the BMPs are in the initial phases of being implemented throughout the State. Metropolitan is at the forefront of the implementation efforts and is, in fact, ahead of the anticipated BMP implementation schedule.

Implementation of the BMP process is voluntary, but it has been suggested by various groups that a bill be drafted to mandate implementation of the BMP process. This mandating would be a contradiction of the intent and spirit of the original BMP process. Signatories to the BMP MOU are participating and implementing programs because it is voluntary. Any reversal of this voluntary status could cause a significant number of water agencies to abandon the current program.

The result of three years of protracted and arduous negotiations, BMPs are a delicate consensus reached between water agencies and public interest groups with a stake in water issues. While this consensus is not perfect, it represents a practical and effective solution.

At its November 17, 1992 meeting, the Special Committee on Legislation reviewed policy options for mandating BMP legislation and is recommending the following for your Board's approval: that Metropolitan continue to support the voluntary BMP process and work for increased implementation of the BMPs, and continue to monitor any efforts to develop mandatory BMP legislation and suggest, when appropriate, that such legislation

be introduced only if it applies equally to urban and agricultural areas.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for action to:

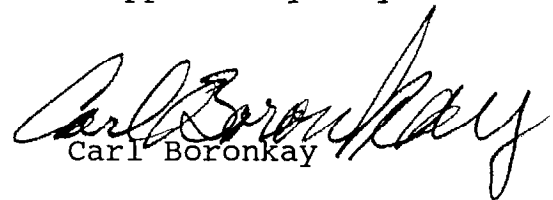
The Executive Committee because of its authority regarding policies on legislation pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2417(a); and

The Water Problems Committee because of its authority regarding water conservation policies pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481(i).

Recommendation

**EXECUTIVE AND WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEES FOR ACTION.**

It is recommended that Metropolitan continue to support the voluntary BMP process and work for increased implementation of the BMPs, and continue to monitor any efforts to develop mandatory BMP legislation and suggest, when appropriate, that such legislation be introduced only if it applies equally to urban and agricultural areas.

  
Carl Boronkay

MSD/MAD:aw:bmpbdltr