

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 25, 1992

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

*From:* General Manager

*Subject:* Metropolitan's Participation in Regional Growth Planning in the Southern California Association of Governments Region

Report

Metropolitan's water plans are based on the adopted growth management plans of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the San Diego Association of Governments. This procedure ensures that Metropolitan's water plans are compatible with regional and community goals for land use, infrastructure development, and resource protection.

At the May 1991 Board meeting, staff reported to you that SCAG was beginning to prepare a revised Growth Management Plan (GMP) and an environmental impact report to supersede the current one adopted in 1989. At SCAG's request, Metropolitan has agreed to participate in the update of the 1993 GMP for the portion of its service area that is in the SCAG region. (See attached.)

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for information to the Water Problems Committee because of its responsibility for policies regarding water supplies and annexations and related-growth issues, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481(b).

Recommendation

For information only.

  
Carl Boronkay

AB:jh  
bdscag  
Attm.

## DETAILED REPORT

The Growth Management Plan (GMP) is a collective effort of cities and counties in the Southern California Association of Governments SCAG region to agree on a common future direction for growth and development. SCAG's current GMP and its environmental impact report (EIR) were adopted in February 1989 and are to be updated to meet federal guidelines under the Clean Air Act. The growth forecast and related-regional plans are updated every three to four years. In the last year, SCAG has expanded the traditional GMP to a broader Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) for its six-county region (Los Angeles, Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), and it is to be based on growth and development projections that are approved by the local governments.

The 1993 RCP will have functional elements including: growth management, housing, mobility, air quality, hazardous waste, water quality, water resource, open space and conservation, safety, energy, economic development, financial and human resources and services. A strategic element will provide guidelines for aligning the policies of the individual components. In addition, a master environmental assessment is being developed to serve as the information base for the Plan's programmatic EIR and a reference document for subsequent monitoring of plans and programs in the region.

In the past, Metropolitan has participated in the development of the GMP and prepared its system improvement plans in support of the GMP to ensure compliance with the federal Clean Air and Water Acts. SCAG has asked Metropolitan to more formally participate in the GMP by preparing the Water Resources Element. Metropolitan can contribute to this process by conveying the message that achieving a reliable, high quality water delivery system will require an accurate assessment of growth and its causes.

To ensure greater accuracy and local government support for the 1993 RCP, SCAG has entered into Memorandums of Understanding to develop, review and approve the 1993 RCP with its subregional agencies throughout its service area. Some of the local governments have expressed a heightened interest in a water resources element as a result of the enactment of AB 455 in 1992 that encourages coordination and consultation between water supply and land use approval agencies to ensure proper water supply planning occurs to accommodate develop projects.

For the 1993 RCP, Metropolitan has agreed to provide a water supply element for its service area that is based on the updated 1990 Urban Water Management Plan that will:

(1) Demonstrate the relationship of the Water Resources Element for Metropolitan's service area to the RCP;

(2) Provide an assessment of regional water demands based on SCAG's growth forecasts for Metropolitan's service area;

(3) Provide an assessment of current water resources to Southern California;

(4) Provide a system of programs that will meet the requirements of a reliable urban water supply for Metropolitan's service area;

(5) Draft appropriate watershed mitigation measures for the master environmental assessment; and

(6) Identify issues for resolution in the 1995-1996 Plan update.

SCAG and Metropolitan will jointly determine that Metropolitan's water element for the service area is consistent with the growth forecast and, as a program, provides a reliable urban water supply consistent with that forecast. The Metropolitan service area water element will not be formally reviewed by SCAG with its subregional agencies.

In looking to the 1995-1996 RCP Update, Metropolitan has committed to provide a revised water element for its service area that is based on the Strategic Resources Assessment and to work with SCAG to develop a subregional review process that will balance the interests and needs of Metropolitan's member agencies and SCAG's subregional agencies to meet the objectives of demonstrating adequate and reliable supplies of water for development consistent with the growth forecasts for the service area.

Metropolitan and SCAG are developing a Memorandum of Understanding that will incorporate the provisions of Metropolitan's participation in the Regional Comprehensive Plan as outlined and in form approved by the General Counsel.