

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

December 29, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: San Gabriel Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Program Update

Report

In Metropolitan's proposed San Gabriel Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Program (Program), large amounts of water would be extracted from the contaminated Baldwin Park area of the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin (Basin) and treated to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrates. The treated water would be exported via Metropolitan's Middle Feeder pipeline for use as a potable supply in Metropolitan's service area. Metropolitan would store imported water in the Basin to offset export of extracted water.

The Program would contribute to improving Metropolitan's water supply situation by preserving the Basin as a source of local supply and improving the efficiency of Metropolitan's existing system by providing water storage capacity in a cost effective and environmentally-responsible manner. This Board letter summarizes recent Program activities related to environmental issues, water treatment studies, watermaster negotiations, and federal funding.

To address high-level VOC contamination in the Baldwin Park area of the Basin, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting an investigation called the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Feasibility Study (OUFS). The Baldwin Park OUFS will evaluate several alternatives for pumping contaminated water from the Basin and treating it to remove the hazardous substances. Metropolitan has been working with the EPA to incorporate potential conjunctive-use projects from Metropolitan's Program into EPA's Baldwin Park OUFS. If Metropolitan's Program is implemented as a cooperative effort with the EPA, it would be eligible for partial funding from the Superfund Program.

To this end, the General Manager and staff met with the Regional Administrator of EPA Region IX and California's

Secretary for Environmental Protection on November 24 to discuss Metropolitan's involvement in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit. Coordinated milestones for Metropolitan and EPA to assure inclusion of conjunctive use as a remedy in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit were discussed. Staff of all three organizations have been directed to develop a workplan for a cooperative arrangement for conjunctive use.

Woodward-Clyde Consultants was selected early this month to prepare an environmental impact report that would comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Among the major issues to be addressed are groundwater and water quality impacts, air quality, land use, aesthetics, traffic, and public health and safety. Their report is expected to be completed this summer.

In July your Board approved James M. Montgomery, Consulting Engineers, Inc., to conduct bench-scale studies for VOC removal. The bench-scale study includes the development of design parameters for a treatment plant, the employment of a process model to evaluate performance of treatment processes, and the development of information for CEQA compliance. Staff is in the process of engaging Boyle Engineering to study the technical and economic feasibility of nitrate removal treatment processes. These bench-scale nitrate removal studies will investigate three ion exchange resin types, the different levels of regeneration, and the effect of VOCs on process performance.

Metropolitan and the Main San Gabriel Watermaster are working on a joint agreement for groundwater storage, extraction, and export from the Basin. Some areas of agreement have been reached; however, further negotiations are needed.

With the passage of Section 1914 of Public Law 102-579 in November, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is authorized to participate with Metropolitan and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority in funding up to 25 percent of the cost of designing, planning, and constructing a conjunctive-use facility in the Basin. Efforts are continuing to obtain budget appropriations for this federal funding.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for information to the Water Problems Committee pursuant to Sections 2481(d) and (i) of

Metropolitan's Administrative Code granting it authority regarding policies dealing with the sale and delivery of water for various uses, and underground storage of water and the use thereof.

Recommendation

For information only.


Carl Borenkay

JMB:MEM:bvf