

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

January 28, 1993

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

*From:* General Manager

*Subject:* Federal Funding for the San Gabriel Groundwater Conjunctive-  
Use Project

Report

Metropolitan has undertaken extensive studies over the past six years in cooperation with local agencies to develop a conjunctive-use program in the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin (Basin), one of the largest groundwater basins in Metropolitan's service area. We have provided several reports to your Board on these efforts, including a report at your January meeting.

Developments this past month have indicated the desirability of submitting information on the San Gabriel Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project (Project) in connection with pending appropriation proceedings for implementing Section 1614 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (H.R. 429). That section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in funding up to 25 percent of the cost to design, plan, and construct a conjunctive-use facility designed to improve the water quality in the Basin and allow the utilization of the Basin as a water storage facility.

Metropolitan's proposed Project would store imported water in the Basin and, in return, extract up to 30 million gallons of groundwater per day from the contaminated Baldwin Park area of the Basin. The extracted water would be conveyed to a regional treatment plant for removal of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrates to the extent required to reliably meet drinking water standards. The treated water would be exported via Metropolitan's Middle Feeder pipeline for use as a potable supply in Metropolitan's service area.

The Project would contribute to improving Metropolitan's water supply situation by preserving the Basin as a source of local supply and by improving the

efficiency of Metropolitan's existing system by providing water storage capacity in a cost effective and environmentally responsible manner. The Project would be structured so that it would not interfere with local use of the Basin and would be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Basin cleanup objectives for the Baldwin Park area.

It is envisioned that Metropolitan would design, construct, and operate extraction wells, treatment facilities, a pump station, and a pipeline distribution system at an estimated capital cost on the order of \$100 million and an annual operation and maintenance cost on the order of \$10 million. The Project may be eligible for funding from the Superfund Program since extraction and treatment for water supply purposes will automatically remove contaminants from the Basin, and the Project facilities may be used for other cleanup activities. Superfund funding is critical for Metropolitan's involvement. Our goal is to assure a cost-effective Project with the expectation that Metropolitan's share of the total costs would be no more than 25 percent.

Congressman Esteban Torres (D-Pico Rivera), whose thirty-fourth district includes portions of the San Gabriel Valley and thus the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, has been appointed to the House of Representative's Appropriations Committee. He has expressed willingness to sponsor legislation that would appropriate funding for the Project in the federal 1994 fiscal year budget. Therefore, I request your approval to submit Project information in connection with pending appropriations proceedings to preserve the opportunity to receive essential federal funding for the Project.

The requested action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since authorization, design, and construction of the proposed project will require subsequent approval by your Board and CEQA compliance at that time.

#### Board Committee Assignments

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

This letter is referred for action to:

The Water Problems Committee pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 2481(d) and (i) granting it authority regarding policies dealing with the sale

and delivery of water for various uses, and underground storage of water and use thereof.

The Executive Committee pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2417(a) granting it authority to study, advise, and make recommendations with regard to legislation sponsored by Metropolitan or in any way affecting Metropolitan.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to seek legislation that would provide federal funding appropriations in support of the Metropolitan San Gabriel Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project proposal described in this letter.

  
Carl Boronkay

JMB:bvf