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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

9-9

January 26, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Information)
Board of Directors (Finance and Insurance Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Quarterly Update Regarding Metropolitan's Ultra-Low-Flush Toilet Replacement Program

Report

On August 11, 1992, your Board authorized funds to assist member agencies with ultra-low-flush (ULF) toilet replacement projects. Since then, staff has worked with member and subagencies on their project designs for final proposals. The budget allocation was \$7 million for ULF toilet replacement projects, and was distributed in two phases: \$6 million for the first and \$1 million for the second. Metropolitan received a total of \$11.6 million in applications for Conservation Credits, which would fund the replacement of an estimated 85,000 toilets for total estimated water savings of 48,000 acre-feet over the life of the toilets. This has left a balance of \$4.6 million in unmet requests.

Board Letter No. 8-10 has also been submitted for your action at this, February Board meeting. Your Board also authorized the development of an innovative program that will significantly reduce the current average investment of \$135 per ULF toilet replacement to \$100 or less for each ULF toilet installed. This program will be conducted under the Water-Wise logo, and utilizes a more cost-effective ULF toilet distribution method by bulk purchasing the ULF toilets and targeting specific sectors of the community. These sectors, low-income and minority single-family and multifamily housing, have been shown to provide the most savings for the investment. Member and subagencies that have existing rebate projects will be able to adopt this program with current Conservation Credits agreements.

Many projects will specifically target the participation and resources of community based organizations (CBO), similar to the Mothers of East Los Angeles project, for low-income and minority community projects. Other projects will solicit multifamily owners/managers, who may participate with a \$25 to \$30 co-participation fee. In both cases, ULF toilets will be provided in bulk with provisions for recycling replaced toilets into crushed road fill aggregate or trench backfill slurry. This program will be managed by CTSI Corporation, the

successful respondent to a Request for Proposals. CTSI Corporation will provide project design support, marketing, and training for these projects. It is anticipated that as many as 50,000 ULF toilets will be installed under this program.

Staff designed the program to take advantage of lessons and opportunities learned from prior programs. Some of the advantages are: 1) agencies with limited staffing can take advantage of this program; 2) CBO projects create inroads into communities not typically reached by conservation programs, but which may achieve more significant savings; 3) CBO projects can create jobs, job training, and positive cash flow in these communities; 4) projects can be specifically designed and marketed for multifamily sectors that can achieve the best savings as proven by Metropolitan studies; and 5) throw-away materials can be effectively collected and recycled thus reducing landfill impacts.

Board Committee Assignments


This letter is referred for information to:

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

The Finance and Insurance Committee because of its authority to study and advise in matters concerning the disposition of funds, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2441(c).

Recommendation

For information only.


Carl Boronkay