

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

January 22, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Engineering & Operations Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Progress Report on San Joaquin Reservoir Improvement Project

### Report

The San Joaquin Reservoir Improvement Project proposes to improve water quality in the reservoir to meet existing and more stringent water quality standards expected to be promulgated in the near future. Nearly 30 preliminary project alternatives were analyzed to determine which options could be feasibly implemented to meet project objectives. The current revised draft EIR determines that flexible or rigid covers or a treatment plant to treat the reservoir effluent could be implemented.

The revised draft EIR was sent to the reservoir owners, residents overlooking the reservoir and other interested parties. A public hearing was conducted in July 1992. The 45-day public review period normally provided for environmental documents was extended an additional 90 days, to November 13, at the request of residents near the reservoir. A second extension of an additional 45 days, to December 29, was provided for the Committee to Preserve the San Joaquin Hills Reservoir (Committee). The comment period for the revised draft EIR closed in December 1992. Metropolitan has received approximately 175 comments on the revised draft EIR from 55 individuals/groups.

Comments received from water agencies and civic groups support the most cost efficient solution to water quality problems experienced at the reservoir. Residents within the reservoir service area also generally favor the least cost alternative that relieves poor water quality episodes. Staff conducted a public opinion survey, and the results of that survey were reported to the Board in the October Board letter.

Staff continues to receive resolutions from reservoir owners and agencies supporting the need to improve water quality in San Joaquin Reservoir. Organizations that have recently adopted positions supporting the most cost efficient project include Laguna Beach County Water District, City of Costa Mesa, Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Municipal Water District of Orange County. Staff has held informational meetings

with the Newport Beach City Council to keep local officials informed of the project's progress and issues that affect local residents, and has conducted a tour of the reservoir site with Newport Beach community leaders.

Residents near the reservoir have formed the Committee to Preserve the San Joaquin Hills Reservoir, an organization opposed to project alternatives that will have adverse aesthetic impacts to homes with views of the reservoir. This committee is similar to the organizations in Los Angeles that oppose modifications to open reservoirs within that city. The Committee has retained Hall & Phillips, Attorneys at Law, and Mr. David Prasifka, a consulting engineer with the Keith Companies, to represent them during the CEQA process. During the extended review period, two meetings were held between Metropolitan staff and the Committee with its consultants to discuss the revised draft EIR and to facilitate the Committee's formal submission of comments in December.

The Committee's comments were submitted through Hall & Phillips and were received on December 30, 1992. Staff will address all comments in the Final EIR.

#### Board Committee Assignments

This letter was referred for information only to:

The Engineering and Operation Committee because of its interest in the storage and treatment of water pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481 (c).

#### Recommendation

For information only.

  
for Carl Boronkay