

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

February 25, 1993

(Executive Committee--Information)
 (Water Problems Committee--Information)
 To: Board of Directors (Special Committee on Legislation--
 Information)
 From: General Manager
 Subject: Growth Management Legislation

Report

For the last five years, a number of governmental entities and private sector groups in California have addressed the issues of growth management, regional planning, and streamlining of governmental process and decision-making. In 1990 there were 54 separate pieces of legislation introduced dealing with growth management, regional planning and streamlining governmental process. In 1992 two bills, SB929 (Presley) and SB434 (Bergeson), moved through the Legislature but were not finalized. In 1991, Governor Wilson appointed a Council on Growth Management and conducted hearings throughout the State. In January 1993, the Governor released that Committee's final Growth Management Policy.

Last July, the Metropolitan Board voted to oppose SB929 unless amended to reflect Metropolitan's role in the regional planning and infrastructure process. The Coalition for Environmental and Economic Recovery, the sponsors of SB929, agreed to Metropolitan's amendments:

1. Language adding the goals - "a reliable urban, agricultural and environmental water supply."
2. Expansion of the designation of a regional agency to include "an urban water supplier as defined in Section 10617 of the Water Code which serves water in more than one County." This will cover Metropolitan and East Bay Municipal Water District.
3. Including language for "market mechanisms to improve the efficiency in use of natural resources and public facilities".

Metropolitan staff has continued to participate in the Coalition for Environmental and Economic Recovery as they have reevaluated SB929 and redesigned the bill for resubmission by Senator Presley in 1993. The Coalition continues to involve representatives of the environmental, business and ethnic community, Planning Association, and key legislative staff.

Senators Presley and Bergeson have indicated they will introduce legislation. The Coalition's proposal, consistent with the Board's recommendation last year, treats water purveyors as utilities who will provide service in coordination with local governments. Local governments would approve development projects consistent with a growth management strategy. At the regional level, Metropolitan's plan would be coordinated with the regional growth assessment as Metropolitan is currently doing.

The Governor's proposal calls for a long-range State water plan, consistent with Department of Water Resources planning and accepted recommendations of the Governor's Long-Range Water Policy Task Force to be integrated into the Integrated State Plan. It does not call for coordination or integration of planning by water agencies at either the regional or local level. It states the long-range State water strategy should "facilitate voluntary transfers with fully adequate protection for sending areas and third party impacts" and would require that water mechanisms "should be on terms and conditions as would further the State's growth guidelines." There is discussion of the formulation of State growth guidelines and incentives to encourage local jurisdictions to choose to undertake their share of growth efficiently. Localities that meet the guidelines would be eligible for a number of State programs and communities which do not adopt such guidelines and incentives would not receive them. Water Transfers are called out as one of the State programs.

1993 Legislative Session

There will be an administration and at least one major legislator sponsored initiative to deal with the policy issues that include: (1) a State/regional/local strategy to manage growth and infrastructure prioritization and funding, (2) integration of State and local planning including CEQA, (3) permit streamlining, and (4) reformed governmental structure to accomplish 1-3.

The first draft of these proposals will be in print in the next few weeks and analyses will be brought to the Board at that time.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for information to:

The Executive Committee because of its authority with regard to legislation sponsored by the District or in any way affecting the District, pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 2417 (a).

The Water Problems Committee because of its authority with regard to policies, sources, and means of importing water required by the District, pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 2481 (a).

The Special Committee on Legislation because of its authority to review proposals for State and Federal legislation that may affect the District, pursuant to Administrative Code, Section 2581 (a).

Recommendation

For information only.



Carl Boronkay

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