

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

February 23, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: Incremental Interruption and Conservation Plan Stage

Report

On November 20, 1990, Metropolitan's Board established the Incremental Interruption and Conservation Plan (IICP) to address potential water shortages in a continuing drought. That plan currently provides for six stages of response. Since April 1, 1992, Metropolitan has been in Stage I of the IICP. Stage I entails voluntary conservation with the goal of a 10 percent reduction in the use of Metropolitan supplies.

The continued storm activity has had a significant impact on the water supply. The water content of snowpacks statewide as of February 1 was 175 percent of average. The Northern Sierra region which supplies the State project watershed had received 170 percent of normal snowpack water content through January 31, 1993. On February 11, 1993, Lake Oroville contained approximately 2.1 million acre-feet (MAF). Normal end of February storage is 2.45 MAF. Additionally, the State's share of San Luis was about 844,000 acre-feet (AF) which is above normal for this time of year. Southern State project reservoir storage is essentially at capacity at this time, with some allowance for storage of local runoff should the rains continue.

Metropolitan has been informed by the Department of Water Resources that an additional 15 percent allocation of 1993 State project water is being made available to contractors. This additional 15 percent is approximately 311,000 AF and brings Metropolitan's total State project water supply to nearly 1.4 MAF. This amount includes 1992 carryover and entitlements of Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District. Continuing improvements in the State Water Project may increase this allocation. Colorado River Aqueduct pumping will produce an additional 1.2 MAF in calendar year (CY) 1993, making the total supply available to Metropolitan 2.6 MAF.

As a result of conservation efforts and regionally heavy storms, water demand for January and February of 1993 is projected at 226,000 AF. This is a reduction of 54,000 AF from earlier sales projections. Demands for CY 1993 have been adjusted to account for these current trends and are now estimated to be between 1.8 and 1.9 MAF. A summary of the most recent water supply and demand balance will be attached to a revised version of this letter to be distributed at the March Board meeting.

There is every expectation that Metropolitan will be able to avoid the implementation of a stage higher than Stage I of the IICP through the end of fiscal year 1993-94. However, due to uncertainties caused by potential operating restrictions such as Decision 1630, enforcement of the Federal Endangered Species Act and the possibility of future drought conditions, the potential for future water supply shortages still exists. Should this occur, the IICP could be reimplemented sometime after June 30, 1994, with a new base year of fiscal year 1993-94.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for information to the Water Problems Committee pursuant to its authority to study policies regarding the sale and delivery of water for various uses under Administrative Code Section 2481(d).

Recommendation

For information only.


Carl Boronkay

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