

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 25, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Engineering & Operations Committee--Information)
(Special Committee on Water Quality and
Environmental Compliance--Information)

From: General Manager

Subject: Hazardous Materials Inventory Committee

Report

On an annual basis, Metropolitan purchases, stores, uses and/or disposes approximately 4,000 hazardous materials that invoke specific reporting, communication and handling requirements. In keeping with Metropolitan goals to continuously reduce liability, improve cost-effectiveness and increase productivity, staff are evaluating opportunities to streamline systems associated with hazardous materials acquisition, testing, usage and disposition, and implementing recommendations as appropriate. For example, staff recently automated a key component of Metropolitan's employee "right-to-know" compliance system required by various health, safety and environmental regulations. This has led to significant improvements in accessibility, productivity, and efficiency in maintaining and updating a tremendous amount of critical data on hazardous materials. By making Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) accessible on automated systems throughout the District, Metropolitan has not only achieved a key compliance milestone, but has done so in a very effective and efficient manner.

To identify additional opportunities for improvement, staff formed a task force composed of representatives from Environmental Compliance, Operations, Engineering Labs, Water Quality, Administrative Services, and Information Systems divisions. Specifically, the task force has adopted goals to accomplish the following:

- a. Ensure that the safest and most effective products are approved for use;
- b. Reduce the numbers of hazardous materials used;
- c. Ensure that less toxic substitutes are evaluated;

- d. Identify opportunities for additional automation;
- e. Ensure that all hazardous materials are identified and brought into the tracking system; and
- f. Effectively communicate new hazardous materials policies and procedures.

Key developments and findings will be communicated to your Board as appropriate. Schedules are currently being prepared and will be available next month.

Board Committee Assignments

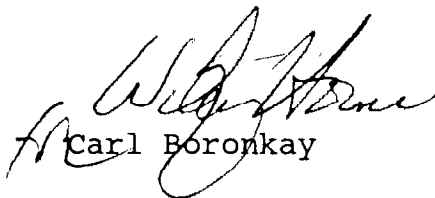
This letter is referred for information to:

The Engineering and Operations Committee because of its authority to study, advise, and make recommendations with regard to the operation, protection and maintenance of District plants and facilities pursuant to Administrative Code 2431(c); and

The Special Committee on Water Quality and Environmental Compliance because of its authority to study, advise, and make recommendations regarding environmental compliance and requirements pursuant to Administrative Code 2551(d).

Recommendation

For information only.



Carl Boronkay