



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

7-9

October 20, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Action)
(Finance and Insurance Committee--Action)
From: General Manager

Subject: Executive Partnership for Environmental Resource Training

Metropolitan and its member agencies, in an effort to enhance the implementation of conservation programs, have developed what staff believes is a highly successful approach for developing partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) for the marketing and implementation of conservation programs. This approach, which has been used with both ultra-low-flush (ULF) toilet and low-flow showerhead distribution programs, has proven successful largely because it effectively combines water agency conservation objectives with a variety of different objectives that are important to local communities. In other words, with such programs, Metropolitan achieves its water conservation objectives, and locally the programs provide employment opportunities, create funding for community service projects, develop skilled work forces, heighten community pride, and lower residential water bills.

Southern California water agencies, recognizing both the success of this CBO-centered approach and the need to develop other significant conservation programs to address requirements of Best Management Practices (BMPs), are looking increasingly toward CBOs to implement these programs. Of particular interest are audit programs (landscape, residential, and commercial) and system leak detection, all of which are repetitive and labor-intensive.

In an effort to broaden the regional network of CBO's well-trained in conservation program implementation techniques, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has conducted a series of meetings with local water agencies, energy utilities, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations to develop a comprehensive training program. The program, known as EXPERT (Executive Partnership for Environmental Resources Training), provides training for CBOs in: conservation program implementation; marketing techniques to culturally-diverse and economically-disadvantaged communities; and basic business practices, such as inventory control and database management.

A non-profit organization would be created by participating organizations to raise funds for the program development and training that EXPERT would manage. In support of

ExpPERT, DWR has budgeted \$163,000 this year in staff and funds. Metropolitan would support ExpPERT with an executive on loan to help the start up and implementation of conservation projects cooperatively with ExpPERT in order to take advantage of training opportunities for CBOs.

Southern California Edison (SCE), as part of its \$35 million commitment to revitalizing greater Los Angeles, has already spent \$2.5 million to upgrade one of its facilities to make it a training facility. This facility, the Regional Job Training Center at Compton (Center), is proposed to house the ExpPERT training program. SCE will support the Center with an annual contribution of \$200,000 in cash and \$200,000 of in-kind services, which includes executives on loan for five years. Although the Center would be the initial site for ExpPERT training and coordination, another objective of ExpPERT would be to replicate the training elsewhere throughout Southern California.

Training would be provided by water agency and energy utility personnel, consultants, contractors, business professionals, and experts loaned and volunteered from specialized fields. CBOs would be trained in a variety of water (and energy) related conservation activities.

Many of Metropolitan's member agencies have expressed interest in ExpPERT, provided established conservation programs aimed at implementing Best Management Practices are incorporated. In response, staff proposes implementation of a 5,000 unit ULF toilet project in the City of Compton in an effort to provide ExpPERT with financing for its training and with a CBO-training vehicle. By establishing the Center's non-profit organization as the CBO responsible for implementing the project, the project would generate money to fund the training program of the non-profit entity. Staff will seek funding from other sources to help finance this project. Also, as other appropriate ExpPERT projects are developed, staff shall request approval from your Board for funding.

This action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act in that there is no possibility that it may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for action to:

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

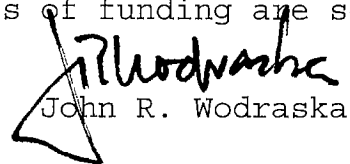
The Finance and Insurance Committee because of its authority to study, advise, and make recommendations in matters concerning the disposition of funds, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2441(c).

Recommendation

WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE FOR ACTION

1. That the Board approve Metropolitan participation in EXPERT, specifically to: (a) provide Metropolitan staff on loan to EXPERT to assist in the development and management of programs; (b) develop training materials and assist in the training of CBO candidates; and (c) further participate, pending your Board's approval, in EXPERT programs as they are developed.

2. That the Board approve funding of up to \$650,000 to fully fund a CBO-training project in which 5,000 ULF toilets would be distributed in the City of Compton. Funds are available in the current Board-approved 1993-94 Conservation budget. Metropolitan's financial commitment to the project will be reduced to the extent alternate sources of funding are secured.


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