

**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

October 27, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)
(Water Problems Committee--Action)

From: General Manager

Subject: Ward Valley Low-Level Radioactive Waste Site

Report

In the Board letter of August 3, 1993, I reported to your Board that Metropolitan's consultant Geoscience, Inc., prepared a draft report raising technical issues regarding the relationship of the proposed Ward Valley Low-Level Radioactive Waste Facility (LLRWF) and Colorado River water quality. These issues include the adequacy of the monitoring plan at and near the site and general protection of the public interest.

As indicated at that time, Metropolitan forwarded the draft report to the Department of Health Services (DHS) for its comments. We met with DHS on October 26 and have scheduled a further meeting, to discuss its comments. Because the draft report is being increasingly cited by both sides in the debate over the LLRWF, it is important to resolve these technical issues. To that end, Metropolitan's consultant will be coordinating directly with DHS.

In the meantime, staff has become aware of increasing lobbying efforts by project proponents seeking federal approval of the sale of federal land to DHS for the LLRWF siting. Secretary of the Interior Babbitt (Secretary) must evaluate the merits of the sale under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which requires, among other things, that the sale ensures proper land use and protection of the public interest. Accordingly, we have also submitted the draft consultant's report to the Bureau of Land Management in response to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed sale.

At the request of the Secretary, Governor Wilson has agreed to hold a hearing on the safety issues, in a manner somewhat similar to the adjudicatory hearing process which Metropolitan has previously supported. The secretary will use the hearing findings to assist him in determining whether to sell 1,000 acres of federal land to DHS for the site of the LLRWF. Metropolitan's staff fully expects Metropolitan's concerns to be addressed through this hearing process.

Board Committee Assignments

This letter is referred for action to:

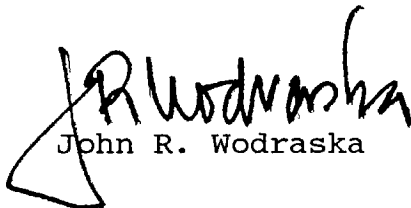
The Executive Committee pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2417 (g) granting it authority regarding major policy issues; and

The Water Problems Committee pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2481 (a) granting it authority regarding policies dealing with imported water supply.

Recommendation

EXECUTIVE AND WATER PROBLEMS COMMITTEES FOR ACTION.

That the Board authorize the General Manager to take the steps he deems appropriate to protect Metropolitan's Colorado River interest regarding the proposed Ward Valley Low-Level Radioactive Waste Facility.


John R. Wodraska