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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

9-8

December 21, 1993

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: San Gabriel Basin Conjunctive-Use Project Update

Report

In August, staff reported to your Board that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in its Proposed Plan, had recommended a remedial project for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit. The proposal is a 27 million gallon per day (MGD) pump-and-treat project to prevent continued migration of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) in the groundwater underlying the cities of Baldwin Park, Irwindale, and Azusa. Preference would be given to supplying the treated water to local purveyors. However, the Proposed Plan does suggest the opportunity for implementing Metropolitan's conjunctive-use project, provided Metropolitan is willing to pay the cost difference between its conjunctive-use project and the proposed remedial project. Staff has accordingly developed a new conjunctive-use project alternative (alternative) that is consistent with EPA's remedial proposal.

This letter describes the alternative, the status of our negotiations with the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, the EPA's Superfund schedule, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) funding, and recent project developments in the California State Assembly.

Conjunctive-Use Project Alternative

The proposed conjunctive-use alternative would consist of a pump-and-treat facility with the capacity of approximately 27 MGD, utilizing the treatment technology of air-stripping and gas-phase granular activated carbon (GAC) proposed by the EPA, and a conveyance system designed to make deliveries to both local purveyors and Metropolitan's Middle Feeder. This alternative differs from our original concept by deferring

treatment facilities for nitrate removal and liquid-phase GAC. The estimated capital cost for the alternative is about \$78 million. The same size EPA remedial proposal without conjunctive-use would cost the EPA approximately \$47 million.

The alternative would provide Metropolitan with a 27,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) supply. To meet the remedial objectives of Superfund, extractions would occur continuously. In dry years and peak summer months, the water would be exported via our Middle Feeder. In wet years and moderate months, the water would be available to the basin producers. The Watermaster agreement discussed below would allow Metropolitan and basin producers to exchange water for production rights.

The alternative would also help establish a positive working relationship with the existing basin users, provide operational knowledge of the treatment plant and influent water quality, and supply cost data to determine if expanding the project to 100,000 AFY would be cost effective. In addition, the EPA would be able to collect additional water quality data to determine if it would cost share on an expanded project. With EPA Superfund monies and the Bureau's funding, the alternative would be cost effective even if it is not expanded. Table 1 (attached) shows Metropolitan's share in the capital costs for the conjunctive-use alternative.

Watermaster Negotiations

The Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Board of Directors approved a draft conjunctive-use agreement at its October 6 meeting. Staff has subsequently met and worked collectively with the Watermaster's conjunctive-use working group to eliminate unacceptable provisions. We are working towards the goal of submitting a final agreement for approval to the Watermaster Board of Directors in February 1994 and to your Board in March.

EPA Schedule

The EPA is scheduled to formally select a remedial plan and issue the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit in January. It plans to send special

notice letters to San Gabriel Valley property owners and businesses responsible for the contamination (Potentially Responsible Parties PRPs) on April 1, 1994. That will trigger a period for the PRPs to make a good faith offer to implement the project. Staff is discussing with EPA how project costs, design, construction, and operational responsibilities would be shared between Metropolitan and the EPA/PRPs.

Bureau of Reclamation Funding

Public Law 103-126 was signed into law by the President on October 28, 1993. This bill provides 25 percent federal cost sharing for Metropolitan's conjunctive-use project. With assistance of our member agencies and strong support from U.S. Congressman Esteban Torres, \$5 million was appropriated for the project as part of the Bureau's 1993-94 budget. Staff is currently coordinating with the San Gabriel Valley Water Quality Authority to encumber these monies.

California Assembly Developments

At the December 10 meeting of the Assembly Select Committee on Groundwater Contamination and Landfill Leakage, the Director of Resources testified about the benefits of our conjunctive-use project as an option for cleanup of groundwater contamination in the San Gabriel Basin. U.S. Congressman Esteban E. Torres submitted a written statement in support of Metropolitan's proposed project. Assemblywoman Hilda Solis, Chair of the Select Committee, who represents various cities in the San Gabriel Valley, introduced legislation (AJR 51) recommending that the EPA Administrator adopt Metropolitan's project.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for information to the Water Problems Committee pursuant to Sections 2481(d) and (i) of Metropolitan's Administrative Code granting it authority regarding policies dealing with the sale and delivery of water for various uses, and underground storage of water and the use thereof.

Recommendation

For information only.


John R. Wodraska

TH:bvf

Attachment

Table 1

Metropolitan's San Gabriel Basin
Conjunctive-Use Project Alternative

Capital Cost Sharing Proposal

EPA/Responsible Parties	\$39.0 million
Metropolitan	19.0 million
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	<u>19.5 million</u>
TOTAL	\$78.0 million*

*Feasibility cost level estimate (-30% + 50%)