

APPROVED
by the Board of Directors of
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
at its meeting held

40679

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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Loren E. Duff
GENERAL MANAGER

January 5, 1994

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)
(Special Committee on Water Quality
and Environmental Compliance--Action)
From: General Manager
Subject: Ninth Year of Voluntary Research Subscription Program--
American Water Works Association Research Foundation

Report

The American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AWWARF) has asked Metropolitan to participate in the ninth year of its Voluntary Research Subscription Program. The amount requested for the calendar year 1994 is \$325,000. Metropolitan's contribution, along with the contributions from other water utilities and consulting firms, will be used to fund critical applied research projects in the drinking water field.

The AWWARF is a nonprofit corporation that was established in 1967 to promote, coordinate, and finance applied research in the operation and management of public water supply systems. Currently, AWWARF has 800 utility subscribers and 50 consulting firm subscribers.

Applied research topics funded by AWWARF address key problems identified by the water industry, and provide essential information for impacting the development of drinking water regulations. Reports on these studies are disseminated to all subscribers on a regular basis.

Metropolitan has benefited from AWWARF's program in a number of areas including:

- the Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBP) Rule;
- the Surface and Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules;
- taste and odor control strategies;
- detection and treatment of microbial pathogens; and
- consumer attitude surveys on water quality.

In addition, AWWARF has funded thirty-five projects to date, (a total of \$9.26 million) related to research on Cryptosporidium, which caused over 400,000 water borne illnesses in the City of Milwaukee in early 1993. AWWARF is also committing \$10 million DBP research over the next five years to ensure that development of the second stage of the D/DBP Rule is based on sound science.

Metropolitan provides considerable input into AWWARF's research direction as Assistant General Manager Duane L. Georgeson is currently the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees for AWWARF and Metropolitan's staff currently serve in an advisory capacity on fifteen different projects. Metropolitan is also a participating/cooperating utility on fourteen projects and is scheduled to receive \$83,000 in arsenic and chloramine DBP research over the next two years and will receive a total of \$420,000 for research on ozone and PEROXONE.

Funding contribution for utilities is based on \$1.40 per million gallons delivered per year, with credits given for water purchased from subscribing wholesalers and water sold wholesale. Metropolitan contributed \$300,000 in the calendar year 1993.

Adequate funds for one-half of the proposed \$325,000 contribution have been budgeted for fiscal year (FY) 1993/94 because payments must be made on a calendar year basis. If this recommendation is approved by your Board, the other half of the proposed \$325,000 contribution would be included in the FY 1994/95 budget. The proposed contribution is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it involves only feasibility and planning studies.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter is referred for action to:

The Executive Committee because the letter is in regard to public information matters affecting the District's interest, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2417 (b); and

The Special Committee on Water Quality and Environmental Compliance because of its authority to study and advise on compliance requirements pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2551 (a) and (b).

Recommendation

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WATER QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR ACTION.

It is recommended that the Board authorize the General Manager to make payment of \$325,000 to the AWWARF as Metropolitan's contribution to fund AWWARF's applied research program during calendar year 1994.


John R. Wodraska

JSS/RLW/sdf
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