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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Barry E. Duff
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

7-5

March 23, 1994

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

From: General Manager

Subject: Implementation of Regional Training Program For Community Based
Organizations

Report

Metropolitan, with the assistance of Community Based Organizations (CBOs), is experiencing considerable success implementing its Ultra-Low-Flush Toilet (ULFT) program. Staff updated your Board at its February, 1994 meeting, informing you that the CBO ULFT program is highly cost-effective and producing significant, quantifiable water savings.

Since 1989, Metropolitan has initiated 61 ULFT projects (either completed or pending) with 23 member agencies to distribute 600,000 ULFTs. Metropolitan has contributed \$34 million and member agencies \$36 million toward these projects. Staff estimates that these ULFTs will save approximately 24,000 acre-feet of water annually.

A significant portion of Metropolitan's ULFT program success is due to the utilization of CBOs. Currently, eleven CBOs are involved in the region's water conservation program. During the current fiscal year, CBO's will distribute an estimated 120,000 ULFTs, representing almost 60 percent of all ULFTs distributed by member agencies and subagencies. Staff believes the continued expansion of the ULFT program specifically, and the region's overall water conservation programs, can be enhanced through the increased use of CBOs.

For over a decade, the energy utilities have retained CBOs to implement their conservation programs. A key component of the energy utilities CBO utilization is the comprehensive training of their CBOs. Staff believes that there is a definite need to incorporate CBO training into the regional water conservation program. Formal training of CBOs will increase the efficiency of the CBOs' effort, provide for standardized program-implementation techniques and assist in increasing the water savings associated with the region's water conservation programs.

The initiation of a CBO training program will produce benefits for the entire Metropolitan service area.

Staff requests your Board approve Metropolitan participation in a CBO training program, and approve the funding of 5,000 toilets for CBO training purposes. These 5,000 toilets, to be completely funded by Metropolitan at a cost of \$650,000, would be a vehicle to provide training benefits for CBOs located throughout Metropolitan's service area.

An important component of the CBO training program is the Regional Job Training Center (RJTC) located in Compton. Donated by Southern California Edison (SCE) as part of its commitment to rebuild Los Angeles, RJTC is designed to implement job training programs. In addition, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has initiated a water resources and environmental job training program known as The Executive Partnership for Environmental Resources Training (EXPERT). As part of its training role and acting in partnership with SCE/RJTC, staff believes that it would be appropriate for EXPERT to conduct training for CBOs located throughout Metropolitan's service area.

A number of Metropolitan's member agencies have expressed interest in EXPERT, provided that EXPERT will deliver training services that will assist the member agencies in their implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMP). The 5,000 toilets that are proposed for funding would be the economic core from which a number of BMP training programs would be generated. The training program would be run under the organizational framework of EXPERT but managed by an experienced program manager already under contract to Metropolitan. CTSI Corporation, our contractor, will also assist in the training. Staff believes that the use of our experienced contract program manager will insure that Metropolitan's objectives, with respect to the CBO training program, are met and concerns that were previously expressed by your Board will be addressed.

EXPERT has recently been incorporated as a non-profit entity and has a Board of Directors with representatives from Edison, DWR, Compton Water Department, West/Central Basin Municipal Water Districts and the Southern California Water Company.

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's participation in a regional CBO training program to be developed in partnership with Department of Water Resources/Executive Partnership for Environmental Resource Training (ExPERT) and Southern California Edison/Regional Job Training Center at Compton.

2. That the Board approve \$650,000 for a fully funded 5,000 unit ultra-low-flush toilet project to be implemented for regional Community Based Organization water conservation program training. Funds are available in the current 1993-94 Conservation Branch budget.


John R. Wodraska

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