

FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF ELIZABETH ANN RIEKE TO THE MWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY CHAIRMAN FOLEY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (Prior Experience)

1982 - 1985: Deputy Legal Counsel, Arizona Department of Water Resources
 1985 - 1987: Chief Legal Counsel, Arizona Department of Water Resources
 1987 - 1989: Associate, Jennings, Strouss and Salmon
 1989 (1 semester): Adjunct Professor, Arizona State University College of Law
 1989 - 1991: Partner, Jennings, Strouss and Salmon
 1991 - 1993: Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources
 1993 - present: Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science

INTRODUCTION

Ms. Rieke is presently serving as the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science. She was appointed by President Clinton to this post in March 1993 because of her leadership and extensive experience in water issues. According to a recent statement made by the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, "Ms. Rieke has a wealth of experience in water management issues, and played a pivotal role [as the Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources] in helping Arizona avoid a water crisis. She understands the importance of strong credible scientific research, both as a decision making tool and a key to building public trust."

Ms. Rieke is also highly regarded outside the Clinton Administration. She was instrumental in leading the effort to coordinate the separate federal regulatory activities ongoing in the San Francisco Bay/Delta estuary by helping create the Federal Ecosystem Directorate (a.k.a. Club Fed), which includes representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under the stewardship of Ms. Rieke, the four Federal agencies are now coordinating their plans through a series of framework agreements between the State and Federal governments to create an integrated ecosystem-wide approach to federal agency actions that complement the State of California's role in allocating water resources and protecting the natural resources of the Bay/Delta estuary.

We, at Metropolitan, are encouraged by Ms. Rieke's progressive leadership in trying to solve some of California's most perplexing water policy issues -- issues that must be resolved now in order to ensure the State's economic future and environmental vitality. Her leadership in Club Fed will be instrumental in developing the State-Federal partnership required to achieve a balanced solution to the problems afflicting the Bay/Delta estuary as well as creating an opportunity to look at longer term improvements.