



**MWD**

*METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*

7-3

October 18, 1994

**To:** Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)  
**From:** General Manager  
**Subject:** Membership in the Inland Empire Economic Partnership

**Report**

The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) is a private, nonprofit, 501-C6 economic development organization. Representing the inland regions of both Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the IEPP strives to advance a proactive economic development agenda for the Inland Empire. Organization programs and activities focus on business recruitment, retention, and expansion.

Expansion activities include comprehensive technical assistance in the areas of general and financial management; business environmental issues; governmental procurement and Small Business Invocation Resource consulting (for large manufacturers) to existing and aspiring business owners in retail, wholesale, manufacturing, service, and construction-type businesses. Activities are coordinated through a vast network of educational institutions, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce and other agencies throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Over the past four years, the IEPP has taken a strong interest in water matters and has assisted Metropolitan on a variety of issues, including the Bay-Delta hearings, the standby charge and other financing issues. A membership in this organization will help Metropolitan expand its relationships with the Inland Empire business community and maintain the high level of support we have received for our projects and programs from this area.

General membership dues in the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) are \$2,500 annually, which would give MWD eligibility to serve on the organization's board of directors and provide a full member vote. Metropolitan's active representative in the IEPP would be Senior Government Relations Representative Tim Skrove.

Sufficient funds are included in the District's 1994-95 fiscal year operation and maintenance budget to cover these costs. The approval of the budget was coupled with the finding of necessity pertaining to dissemination of information required by Section 126 of the Metropolitan Water District Act and approved by two-thirds vote of the Board. The recommendation made in this letter may be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it will not have a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse effect on the environment.

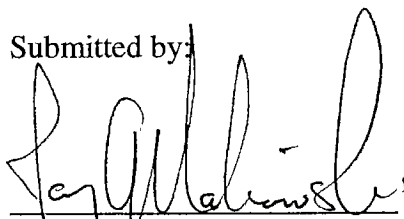
**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board authorize the General Manager to sponsor Metropolitan's general membership in the Inland Empire Economic Partnership in the amount of \$2,500.

**Approval of Request**

John R. Wodraska  
General Manager

Submitted by:



Jay Malinowski  
Director of Public Affairs

Concur:



John R. Wodraska  
General Manager

for

# INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

## *ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW*

The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) is a private non-profit, 501-C6, economic development organization. Representing the inland region of both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, the IEEP strives to advance a pro-active economic development agenda for the Inland Empire. Organization programs and activities focus on business recruitment, retention, and expansion.

### Business Recruitment/Retention

The IEEP has played a significant regional role in new company recruitment. Working directly with companies and site selection consultants, 1993 IEEP efforts were directly involved with the creation of over 1,200 new jobs and more than \$150 million in new investment. The list of companies include:

- Amtrak's Western Regional Sales Office (400 jobs)
- Anheuser-Busch Company/Metal Container Corporation (150 jobs)
- Recycler Core (80 jobs)
- UniFirst Laundry (150 jobs)
- Smith's Foods Distribution Center (500 jobs)

The IEEP is currently involved in on-going "Red-Team" meetings which are regional or state-wide efforts to recruit or retain a company by addressing critical issues affecting the company's business operation. Red Team efforts are underway for SupraCote, Rancho Cucamonga; XCEL Corp., Ontario; Williams Furnace, Colton; and Fender Guitar, Corona.

### Inland Empire Small Business Development Center

Hosted by the IEEP through the support of the California Trade & Commerce Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) was established in 1991 to serve the needs of the small business community throughout the region. The Center provides comprehensive technical assistance in the areas of general and financial management; business environmental issues; governmental procurement and SBIR consulting to existing and aspiring business owners in retail, wholesale, manufacturing, service and construction type businesses.

The Center coordinates activates with a vast network of educational institutions, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce and other agencies throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Center acts as a full information and referral service by supplying access to a resource library; economic and statistical data; public/private financing opportunities and referral lists. In addition, the Center sponsors intensive, application-oriented educational opportunities to provide training to small business owners.