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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

February 24, 1995

To: Board of Directors (Water Problems Committee--Action)
From: General Manager
Subject: San Diego County Water Authority Water Repurification
Feasibility Study Phase II

Report

In August 1994, staff provided your Board with an update on the San Diego County Water Authority's (SDCWA) Water Repurification Feasibility Study Phase I (Study). The proposed water repurification project involves an additional advanced level of treatment of reclaimed water prior to direct discharge to an untreated water supply reservoir. SDCWA and the City of San Diego (City) have proposed that reclaimed water produced at the City's North City Water Reclamation Plant be treated at an advanced water repurification facility and then blended with raw water in the San Vicente Reservoir. Water from the San Vicente Reservoir would then be delivered to the City's Alvarado Water Filtration Plant for treatment before being introduced into the City's potable water delivery system.

Phase I of the Study, which was completed in June, involved identification of regulatory requirements, development of a detailed project proposal, an assessment of public acceptance of indirect potable reuse of reclaimed water, and obtaining approval from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). The total cost of Phase I was in excess of \$300,000, of which Metropolitan's share was \$75,000.

CDHS has given its conceptual approval of the project with three conditions: (1) SDCWA must demonstrate adequate provisions for safe operation of the water repurification system; (2) the amount of repurified water stored in the San Vicente Reservoir must not exceed 50 percent of the total volume of the reservoir; and (3) the water supply permit issued by DHS would be conditional with conversion to a permanent permit possible after three years of successful operation.

Based on the favorable review by CDHS, SDCWA will now focus on repurification alternatives based on the CDHS

criteria. SDCWA has developed a scope of work for Phase II that includes a siting analysis, reservoir retention investigations, formation of a detailed disinfection monitoring and testing program, and a more intensive public outreach and communication program. The estimated cost to complete Phase II of the Study is \$950,000.

It is recommended that Metropolitan provide technical and financial assistance for Phase II of the Study up to a maximum of \$100,000. Metropolitan's participation will help SDCWA in their efforts to secure final approval of the Water Repurification Study by CDHS and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. SDCWA's project is on the forefront of developing a safe and efficient new use of reclaimed water that will provide regional benefits in its application.

In total, with this assistance, Metropolitan will have provided \$175,000 of the total \$1.2 million cost of the study. Following completion of Phase II, SDCWA and the City of San Diego will continue with preparation of environmental documentation, design, and construction of the project. Under favorable conditions, the San Diego Water Repurification Project, with an ultimate yield of 20,000 acre-feet per year, could be in operation by the year 2000. It is anticipated that SDCWA will apply for Metropolitan's Local Projects Program financial assistance for the project.

Recommendation

It is recommended that your Board authorize the General Manager to participate in Phase II of the SDCWA's Water Repurification Feasibility Study for 10 percent of the actual Study costs, not to exceed \$100,000.

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