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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

March 28, 1995

To: Board of Directors (Committee on Legislation--Action)
(Water Problems Committee--Action)

From: General Manager

Subject: Support for SB 1011 (Polanco) on Revisions to the Urban
Water Management Planning Act

Report

In 1983, the Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act) was passed into law. The Act requires urban water suppliers serving more than 3,000 acre-feet of water per year or with more than 3,000 service connections to prepare and file an urban water management plan (Plan) with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). As a wholesaler of water, Metropolitan was initially exempted from the Act. However, Metropolitan prepared Plans in 1985 and 1990 for its own planning purposes and to assist its member and subgencies in the preparation of their plans.

The Act has been amended six times since 1983. The amendments have been necessary to incorporate new requirements and to update the Act's references. Unfortunately, the amendments have been made in piecemeal fashion, and as a result the underlying statute is now confusing to follow for water agencies needing to comply with the requirements for preparing urban water management plans.

Recognizing that there was a need to fully revise the Act, staff from DWR initiated a meeting in October of 1993 to discuss potential revisions. The initial meeting evolved into a series of meetings over the next six months that involved Metropolitan, DWR, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Water Company, San Diego County Water Authority, Eastern Municipal Water District, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, West and Central Basin Municipal Water Districts, and the City of Santa Monica. These participants jointly agreed to devise new language for the Act that more clearly reflected current planning and conservation practices and that made the requirements easier to understand in a more logical order. Once the draft bill was completed in April, 1994, a copy was submitted to the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) for their consideration.

During the Fall of 1994, ACWA considered the proposed legislation and approved it for sponsorship. Senator Richard Polanco has introduced the legislation as SB 1011, a copy of which is attached.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that your Board support passage of SB 1011, for the following reasons:

- (1) The language improvements will make it easier for water agencies statewide to understand what the planning requirements are and how best to comply with them;
- (2) Conservation terminology has been updated to add the term "demand management" and to add the language of the sixteen Best Management Practices as examples of demand management activities;
- (3) Reporting will be simpler for those water agencies which are implementing Best Management Practices; and
- (4) Cost-benefit analyses of conservation programs will now only be required if water agencies are NOT doing conservation programs.

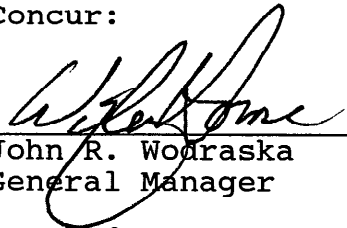
John R. Wodraska
General Manager

Submitted by:

Debra C. Man

Debra C. Man, Chief
Chief of Planning and Resources

Concur:



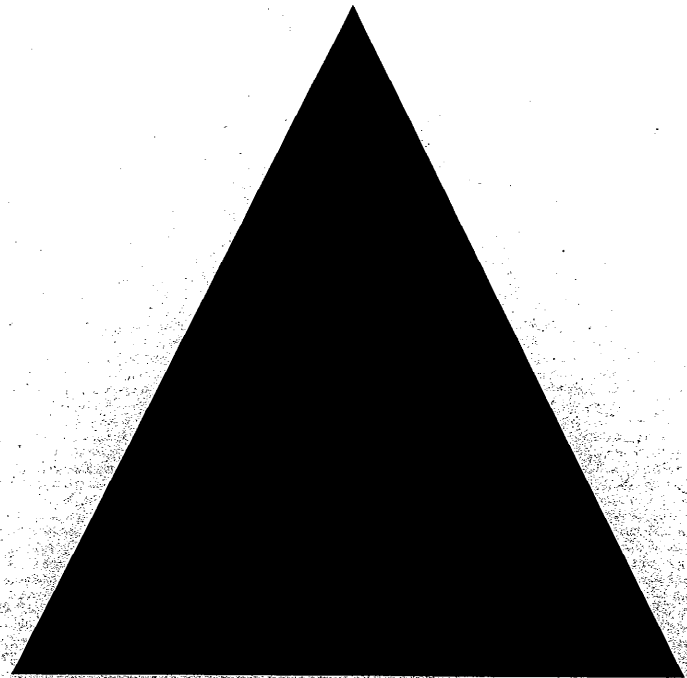
John R. Wodraska
General Manager

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Attachment

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