

APPROVED  
By the Board of Directors of  
The Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California  
at its meeting held

DEC 12 1995

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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Baren E. Drall*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 28, 1995

**To:** Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)

**From:** General Manager

**Submitted by:** Jay Malinowski  
Director of Public Affairs and Conservation

*J. R. [Signature]*  
*J. Malinowski*

**Subject:** Organizational Membership

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Board approve District membership in the Resource Landowners Coalition (RLC) in the amount of \$10,000 for 1996.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Your Board has requested to act on institutional memberships when (1) they are new, or (2) when a dues increase exceeds 10 percent of the previous year's dues. The Resource Landowners Coalition is a group of California land owners which has informally existed since 1992. Its stated purpose is to represent the common interests of substantial landowners whose holdings consist of, or include, lands whose use for the foreseeable future will be based upon natural or developed resources. The RLC has access to a constituency not historically addressed by Metropolitan and it is in the District's best interests to become a charter member of this relatively new organization.

**DETAILED REPORT**

The Resource Landowners Coalition (RLC) is a group of California land owners which has informally existed since 1992. The membership consists of such landowning entities as the Irvine Company, Santa Margarita Ranch Co., Bixby Ranch, Kemper Real Estate, Pardee Construction and the Tejon Ranch. The Southern California Edison Company is expected to join. Metropolitan has worked informally with the RLC over the past several years in connection with the development of the Natural Communities Conservation Plan process, wetlands endangered species and other open space issues. This has provided the ability to directly influence these issues, to obtain support or oppose matters of concern to Metropolitan. In addition, it has provided Metropolitan with advance information on proposals to use public lands such as Metropolitan's for various open space purposes and to influence or stop such proposals.

RLC's policies are governed by a consensus of charter members. Its intention is to represent the common interests of substantial landowners whose holdings consist of, or include, lands whose use for the foreseeable future will be based upon natural or developed resources. Although protection of property rights and future use options are an important secondary interest of the RLC, conversion of resource land to urban uses is not its primary interest. Instead, its mission could be best described as developing public policy that would facilitate and maximize economic use of resource land while maintaining their resource, open space, or rural characteristics.

The RLC intends to maintain a relatively tight focus on the areas of multiple or conjunctive use opportunities, maximizing income streams from private and public interest uses and promoting environmental values by making them as asset, rather than a liability to the landowner. To date, RLC's activities have involved agricultural land use and restrictions on the conversions of farmland; habitat issues including efforts to encourage or reward private stewardship of environmental resources including conservation banking, preservation of historic properties and fire and fuel management.

All of these purposes directly affect Metropolitan because of the District's substantial land holdings. RLC has requested that Metropolitan formally join the organization. Such membership is consistent with the District's participation in diverse groups which assist District staff in protecting and advancing Metropolitan's interests. If approved by your Board, Raymond Corley will be designated as our point of contact with the RLC.

JM:dd

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