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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

JAN - 9 1996

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*Karen E. [Signature]*  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 21, 1995

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)  
(Legislative Committee--Information)

From: General Manager

Submitted by: Brad Hiltcher  
Principal Legislative Representative

Subject: Organizational Memberships

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board approve District membership in the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) in the amount of \$2,200 for 1996 and in The California Institute for Federal Policy Research (Institute) in the amount of \$1,000 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 Western Coalition of Arid States is a grassroots organization formed in the arid western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas to fulfill the need for appropriate water regulations, policies and laws at the federal, state and local level which will be more responsive to the unique ecosystems of the Western states. The California Institute for Federal Policy Research was founded in 1991 to identify issues critical to the economic health of California, coordinate issues, and communicate this policy research information to the California Congressional delegation.

**DETAILED REPORT**

**Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)**

WESTCAS is a grassroots organization formed in the arid western states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas, to fulfill the need for appropriate water regulations, policies and laws at the federal, state and local level which will be more responsive to the unique ecosystems of the Western states. Members include cities, towns, counties, water and wastewater districts as well as engineering,

planning and environmental firms. Metropolitan has worked informally with WESTCAS on water quality and environmental issues since its inception in 1991.

The purpose of the organization is to join together to pool talents and resources to work on common issues to present arid West water quality concerns to federal officials in a unified and cohesive manner.

WESTCAS' policies are governed by its Board of Directors. Its mission is to focus on the issues involved in assuring plentiful supplies of quality water to the communities of the arid West. To accomplish their mission, WESTCAS works to: develop environmentally sound long-term planning and policy documents which can be utilized by water/wastewater agencies, regulatory agencies, legislative groups, environmental groups, and the academic community; form productive, proactive task forces and coalitions on public health, environmental protection, biological research, economic impact and other issues critical to water quantity and quality in the West; and, establish environmentally sensitive regulatory and legislative positions that will ensure plentiful supplies of quality water for the future of our communities.

In the 104th Congress, WESTCAS was successful in developing, to the benefit of the urban water community, specific language which was included in the Clean Water Act reauthorization bill as well as the Safe Drinking Water Act (which is currently pending before the Congress).

Metropolitan is directly affected by most of the issues the organization is involved in. WESTCAS 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, Brad Hiltcher will be designated as Metropolitan's representative.

### **The California Institute for Federal Policy Research (Institute)**

The California Institute for Federal Policy Research was founded in 1991 by Democratic and Republican members of the California Congressional delegation to identify issues critical to the economic health of California, coordinate issues, and communicate this policy research information to the California Congressional delegation. Their goal is to address economic issues in a bipartisan fashion, and to enable the California Congressional delegation to work more closely together on behalf of California.

The Governor of California and all members of the California Congressional delegation are members of the California Institute. Other members include The Irvine Company, Southern California Edison Company, The Walt Disney Company,

the University of California, California Association of Realtors, Chevron, AirTouch Communications, Pacific Gas and Electric Company and other businesses and organizations with a vital interest in the economic health of the state, including labor organizations, universities and financial institutions.

The organization's policies are governed by the California Institute's Board of Directors through the work of its Economic Advisory Council established in 1994. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the California economy, identify key California public policy issues that significantly impact the economy, provide policy options on these key issues to the California Institute, and make the information and analyses available in a timely fashion to the California Institute, the Congressional delegation, principal officials of the State and others.

One of the earliest examples of the California Institute's effectiveness was the bipartisan unity and teamwork of the California Congressional delegation in the aftermath of the Northridge Earthquake in 1994. The delegation worked to urge Congress to approve an \$8.6 billion supplemental appropriations bill to provide earthquake assistance. The California Institute added water issues to their study agenda in 1994 and recently added the Bay-Delta to its list of issues critical to the state economy.

The California Institute has direct influence with the entire California delegation and would provide an excellent opportunity for Metropolitan to increase the profile of water quality and quantity issues as an economic issue in general and the Bay-Delta agreement specifically. 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, Pamela Shubitowski will be designated as Metropolitan's representative.