



**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Revised 8-16**

February 10, 1997

**To:** Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee--Action)  
(Water Planning and Resources Committee-Action)  
(Committee on Legislation--Action)

**From:** for General Manager

**Submitted by:** Gary M. Snyder  
Chief Engineer  
Mark D. Beuhler  
Director of Water Quality

**Subject:** Legislative Policy Principles Regarding Potential Body-Contact Recreation at the Eastside Reservoir Project (Re AB 145: Thompson)

**RECOMMENDATION**

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As approved and revised herein by the Engineering and Operations Committee and the Water Planning and Resources Committee, it is recommended that the Board adopt the following legislative policy principles regarding potential body-contact recreation activities at the main lake of the Eastside Reservoir Project to provide guidance to staff in responding to legislation on this issue:

a. Metropolitan supports the development of significant recreation facilities and activities at the Eastside Reservoir Project.

b.a. Body-contact activities shall not result in a significant adverse impact to the health and safety of water users and consumers and will not result in a significant degradation of secondary water quality standards (e.g., taste and odor).

c.b. Body-contact uses of the reservoir shall not result in unreasonable cost to consumers or member agencies resulting from potential water treatment needs.

d.e. Body-contact activities on the reservoir shall not unreasonably impede the Eastside Reservoir Project's primary function as a domestic water supply reservoir.

e.d. Body-contact recreation activities at the Eastside Reservoir Project shall not result in significantly increased liability to Metropolitan.

## **REPORT**

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On January 21, 1997, AB 145 was introduced to amend the Metropolitan act regarding body-contact recreation at the Eastside Reservoir Project. A copy of AB 145 is attached. Section 4050 (b) of the State of California Health and Safety Code prohibits body-contact recreation on reservoirs such as the Eastside Reservoir Project.

It is expected that policy hearings on this issue could occur as early as February 21. The legislative policy principles contained in this Board action would guide staff in responding to legislation regarding body-contact recreation at the Eastside Reservoir Project. If AB 145 is amended from its current form, additional guidance will be sought in subsequent Board action.

Over the past several years, Metropolitan has been involved in a detailed review of the potential for body-contact recreation activities at the Eastside Reservoir Project. This has included a number of opportunities for community input, including two public workshops.

The Metropolitan Board held a workshop on the public health issues associated with body-contact recreation on December 2, 1996. Staff is now reviewing and preparing responses to comments made by the City of Hemet at the workshop, which staff will discuss with City representatives in February 1997. Following these discussions, staff will prepare and widely distribute the draft Body-Contact Recreation Feasibility Report, addressing the public health, financial, economic, environmental, liability, and legal impacts of allowing body-contact recreation on the reservoir. Following the report's distribution, staff will hold public workshops to solicit public comments in preparation for providing final findings and a recommendation for a decision on body-contact recreation.

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 145**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Thompson**

**January 21, 1997**

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**An act to add Section 148 to the Metropolitan Water District Act (Chapter 209 of the Statutes of 1969), relating to water.**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

**AB 145, as introduced, B. Thompson. Eastside Reservoir: water activities.**

**Under the Metropolitan Water District Act a district is granted certain powers and purposes.**

**This bill would specifically authorize a district under that act to allow waterskiing, jet skiing, and windsurfing activities upon the water in the Eastside Reservoir.**

**Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.**

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 **SECTION 1. Section 148 is added to the Metropolitan**
- 2 **Water District Act (Chapter 209 of the Statutes of 1969),**
- 3 **to read:**
- 4 **148. A district may allow waterskiing, jet skiing, and**
- 5 **windsurfing activities upon the water in the Eastside**
- 6 **Reservoir.**