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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

9-19

September 30, 1997

To: Board of Directors (Bay Delta Political Advisory Committee--Information)
Committee on Legislation--Information)
(Water Planning and Resources Committee--Information)

From: General Manager *[Signature]*

Submitted by: Debra C. Man, Chief
Planning and Resources *[Signature]*

Subject: Update on Federal Funding for the CALFED Bay-Delta Effort

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 24, 1997, a joint House/Senate Conference Committee on Energy and Water Development agreed to a new appropriation for fiscal year 1998 of \$85 million for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The full House and Senate are expected to approve the federal matching funds in early October. These funds will be used to support an array of ecological improvements in the Bay-Delta Estuary, including habitat restoration, construction of fish screens, watershed protection, expanded wetlands protection, and improved ecosystem water quality.

Members of the California Bay-Delta Water Coalition, led by California State Senator Jim Costa and Secretary of State Bill Jones, called the appropriation a good start for first-year funding of a new program. Last year, Congress authorized \$430 million for three years (\$143.3 million per year in 1998, 1999, and 2000) for Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration and Category III projects.

DETAILED REPORT

Background

In September 1996, the California Bay-Delta Environmental Enhancement Act, H.R. 4236, was approved by the House and Senate and signed by the President in the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996. The legislation authorized \$430 million for

three years (\$143.3 million per year in 1998, 1999, and 2000) for Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration and Category III projects. The legislation received overwhelming bipartisan support from the California delegation and leadership in the House and Senate.

This federal authorization of funds for the CALFED Bay-Delta program was to complement funds approved by California voters as part of Proposition 204 in November 1996. Proposition 204 included about \$600 million for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta Estuary.

Coalition to Secure Federal Appropriations

Since October 1996, a coalition of urban, agricultural, and environmental Bay-Delta interests, led by California State Senator Jim Costa and Secretary of State Bill Jones, have been working together to secure appropriation of these authorized funds. The coalition has a membership of 29 organizations. Representatives from southern California include the: San Diego County Water Authority, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Coachella Valley Water District, Municipal Water District of Orange County, West and Central Basin Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

House and Senate Action

In July 1997, the full Senate and House approved separate Energy and Water spending packages of \$50 million and \$120 million, respectively, for the CALFED Bay-Delta program. The differences in these packages were resolved on September 24, 1997 through a joint House/Senate Energy and Water Conference Committee. The Committee recommended an appropriation for fiscal year 1998 of \$85 million for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The full House and Senate are expected to approve the federal matching funds in early October.

Use of Combined State and Federal Monies

The combined state and federal funds will be used to support an array of ecological improvements in the Bay-Delta Estuary, including habitat restoration, construction of fish screens, watershed protection, expanded wetlands protection, and improved ecosystem water quality. CALFED has recently received over 385 restoration project proposals totaling more than \$600 million as part of their early-start "Category III" ecosystem restoration program.

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