



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

7-18

May 26, 1998

To: Board of Directors
From: General Manager
Submitted by: Chief Engineer
Subject: Membership in Valley Economic Development Corporation - Eastside Reservoir Project

for _____
for _____

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that your Board authorize the General Manager to take all actions necessary for the Metropolitan Water District to become a member of the Valley Economic Development Corporation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Valley Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) is a non-profit (501-C6) economic development corporation comprised of public and private entities seeking to promote business and economic development in the San Jacinto Valley. The Eastside Reservoir Project (ESRP) is within the area encompassed by the VEDC. Development of the lands surrounding ESRP for recreational uses will have a significant impact on the regional economy. Membership in VEDC provides the Metropolitan Water District (Metropolitan) an opportunity to participate and cooperate with the State of California, local governmental entities and major businesses and utilities relative to economic development issues impacting ESRP and the San Jacinto Valley.

DETAILED REPORT

The VEDC is a non-profit corporation (501-C6) that has been involved in promoting business development in the San Jacinto Valley for nearly 20 years. It is comprised of the State of California, County of Riverside, City of Hemet, Eastern Municipal Water District and a number of major businesses and utilities. Metropolitan has been asked to be a part of this group at an annual sponsorship cost of \$5,000.

The ESRP is, and will continue to be through the development of the ESRP's recreation areas, a major contributor and stakeholder in a healthy San Jacinto Valley economy. Metropolitan, therefore, has a critical and ongoing interest in how the community pursues new business for the region, how the region is promoted and marketed and the financial base including fees and taxes imposed by local entities.

As a VEDC member, Metropolitan will serve on the organization's Board of Directors with a full member vote. VEDC activities include promotional activities to attract business and customers to the San Jacinto Valley.

Sufficient funds for membership are available in the ESRP budget and in current appropriations to cover these costs. Approval of Metropolitan membership is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it will not have a substantial, or potentially substantial adverse effect on the environment.