



**MWD**

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 23, 1998

To: Board of Directors (Water Planning and Resources Committee--Action)

From: *for* General Manager 

Submitted by: Debra C. Man, Chief
Planning and Resources 

Subject: Recycled Water Planning Assurances for CALFED

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board authorize the General Manager to support certification of water recycling planning in resolving the CALFED alternatives for a Bay-Delta program consistent with this letter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff was requested by the Water Planning and Resources Committee at its May 1998 meeting to address development of a Best Management Practice (BMP) for recycling. As part of its Water Use Efficiency Common Element in its Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS (PEIR/EIS), CALFED discusses the need for a BMP for recycling under the California Urban Water Conservation Council. The California Urban Water Agencies has supported certification of water recycling by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under existing requirements for Urban Water Management Plans. The PEIR/EIS also references DWR certification as integral to the assurances of water use efficiency.

In moving forward with the PEIR/EIS, staff recommends that Metropolitan support the broad concept of certification of water recycling planning. The specific method of certification would be based on reaching consensus among affected agencies on the most practical approach.

DETAILED REPORT

As a component of its water use Efficiency Common Element of the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS, CALFED has proposed that the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) consider adoption of a new water recycling Best Management Practice (BMP). Discussions with CALFED have indicated that developing a process that assures that agencies receiving imported Bay-Delta supplies give earnest consideration to water recycling opportunities is an important part of a CALFED Bay-Delta solution.

CALFED has also proposed that water agencies develop feasibility plans and recycled water market evaluations and that results of those evaluations be included in Urban Water Management Plans to be certified by DWR. The California Urban Water Agencies has supported the proposal in concept and is drafting guidelines for effective water recycling planning.

Adoption of a recycling BMP was initially considered by CUWCC in the development of the existing conservation BMPs. A BMP was not implemented by CUWCC due to concerns about its lack of technical expertise in recycling and dramatic differences in implementation processes between conservation (reduced water use) and recycling (marketing to increase resource use). A number of member agencies have expressed a preference for not establishing a water recycling BMP administered by CUWCC.

In order to facilitate the CALFED progress, Metropolitan would work with CALFED to develop uniform processes for evaluating recycling opportunities and methods for certifying agency efforts to meet CALFED recycling objectives. Options other than the CALFED proposal might include a water recycling assurances process administered by DWR, an alternative existing organization, or a new organization.

While Metropolitan has promoted development of recycled water through its Local Projects Program and the Local Resources Program, responsibility for implementation of those projects lies with our member agencies and their sub-agencies. Accordingly, Metropolitan would consult with agency managers to guide its endorsement of a particular water recycling certification process suitable for the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Common Element.

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