

February 12, 1999

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee--Action)

From: General Manager _____

Submitted by: Gary M. Snyder _____
Chief Engineer

Subject: Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Southern California Edison for Relocation of Power Poles

Reference: Appropriation No. 15122

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to execute an agreement with Southern California Edison substantially on terms outlined in this letter, and in form approved by General Counsel in amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to relocate power poles along the Highland Pipeline alignment of the Inland Feeder Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Along the proposed alignment of the Highland Pipeline of the Inland Feeder Project, Southern California Edison (SCE) has a number of power poles that are located within the boundaries of Metropolitan’s future construction. These poles must be relocated in order to perform construction activities. Approval of this recommendation would authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with SCE in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000, in form approved by General Counsel, for the temporary relocation of the power poles and associated high-voltage lines for the duration of Highland Pipeline construction and, upon completion of construction, the return of the power poles to SCE’s easement. SCE will complete all work associated with the pole relocation and Metropolitan will reimburse SCE for the cost incurred. Costs for the pole relocation were previously planned and budgeted for as part of the Inland Feeder Project budget. The budget for the Inland Feeder Project, which has been fully appropriated by the Board, remains unchanged at \$1,188,000,000.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposed action is necessary to provide a safe work environment and to ensure SCE facilities are not damaged during the construction of the Highland Pipeline segment of the Inland Feeder Project.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO PROPOSED ACTION

Install underground lines

The existing power poles could be replaced with underground power lines which would eliminate the overhead safety concerns during construction. Preliminary investigations revealed that the costs of installing the underground lines was in excess of \$1.1 million not including the environmental clearances that would be required. Also, due to the nature of the heavy excavation equipment that will be used during construction, the underground lines are at risk of being damaged.

Revise alignment of pipeline

Metropolitan could revise the alignment of the pipeline to avoid impacts to the power poles. However, this would result in added right-of-way and environmental impacts that would significantly increase design costs and delay construction of the Highland Pipeline.

ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

- Complete Acquisition of Necessary Right-of-Way in early 1999
- Begin Construction of the Highland Pipeline in mid-1999
- Complete Construction of Highland Pipeline in late 2001

CEQA COMPLIANCE / ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In February 1993, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Inland Feeder Project. Relocation of utilities within the construction corridor was covered in the EIR. No further environmental documentation, pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is required for the Board to approve the recommended action.

DETAILED REPORT

The proposed alignment for the Highland Pipeline segment of the Inland Feeder Project stretches approximately 2.8 miles from a point just east of Highway 330 in the City of Highland to the northern edge of the Santa Ana River Wash in the Community of Mentone. For approximately two miles of the alignment, beginning at Church Street on Abbey Way and ending at Cone Camp Road, a line of SCE 33KV power poles are located within the excavation corridor of the pipeline. In their present location, the power poles and associated high-voltage lines would present an extremely hazardous working environment to the construction personnel due to the nature of the work and the heavy equipment used. Several power poles are actually located within the proposed pipeline trench and would be directly impacted by the excavation. In order to provide a safe working environment and to ensure Metropolitan's construction does not affect SCE's ability to provide uninterrupted electrical service to its customers, the power poles must be relocated for the duration of construction.

In accordance with terms and conditions to be set forth in the proposed agreement between SCE and Metropolitan, in form approved by the General Counsel, the power poles would be relocated by SCE to the edge of Metropolitan's permanent right-of-way prior to the start of construction of the Highland Pipeline. At the completion of construction, the power poles would then be returned by SCE within SCE's permanent easement. Metropolitan will reimburse SCE for the cost of the work, not to exceed \$1,500,000, including design engineering, contract administration, construction, project inspection, and other associated costs. The budget for the Inland Feeder Project, which has been fully appropriated by the Board, remains unchanged at \$1,188,000,000.

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