

February 19, 1999

To: Board of Directors (Executive Committee--Action)

From: General Manager _____
 General Counsel _____

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

Subject: Authorize Continued Membership in the Western Urban Water Coalition

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to continue membership in the Western Urban Water Coalition. Basic 1999 dues are \$15,000. An additional amount of up to \$13,000 is also requested as a special assessment for Endangered Species Act activities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Western Urban Water Coalition (WUWC) was established in June 1992, and consists of 17 major municipal water suppliers in the western United States. WUWC agencies serve over 35 million people in six states including California, Washington, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah. WUWC has frequently taken a leading role in developing administrative, regulatory and legislative initiatives with respect to Endangered Species Act, water conservation, the Colorado River, water transfers, water issues related to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, public lands, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues. WUWC's recent proactive advocacy in the areas of endangered species and water conservation have been of particular importance to Metropolitan.

Annual dues are paid during the first quarter of each year. Basic 1999 dues are \$15,000, and the special assessment for Endangered Species Act activities is projected at an amount not to exceed \$13,000 with the understanding that the actual billing may be for less than this amount. The special assessment will support continued proactive advocacy of constructive endangered species legislation and rulemaking. It also includes participation in a planned workshop to review habitat conservation planning and how to improve it.

Metropolitan is a charter member of WUWC and continues to find that its broad-based advocacy is critical to successful achievement of Metropolitan's legislative and regulatory objectives. The O&M Budget includes funds for continued participation in WUWC.

DETAILED REPORT

The Western Urban Water Coalition (WUWC) was established in June 1992, and consists of 17 major municipal water suppliers in the western United States. WUWC agencies serve over 35 million people in six states. California members include Metropolitan, the City and County of San Francisco Public Utility Commission, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, Contra Costa Water District, Central Basin Municipal Water District, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the San Diego County Water Authority. Members from other western states include the cities of Phoenix and Tucson, the Denver Water Department, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Sierra Pacific Power Company, the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and the Seattle Public Utilities.

WUWC has frequently taken a leading role in developing administrative, regulatory and legislative initiatives with respect to Endangered Species Act (ESA), water conservation, the Colorado River, water transfers, water issues related to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, public lands, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues. WUWC has been very involved in ESA reauthorization, developed a position paper and strategy and successfully provided constructive input to the legislative discussions. WUWC was instrumental in forwarding the concept of habitat-based conservation under the ESA and supported legislative efforts to provide statutory assurances for conservation agreements consistent with Metropolitan's policy principles. The coalition also worked to counter the Knollenberg legislation that would have undermined uniform plumbing standards important to urban water conservation efforts.

Annual dues are paid during the first quarter of each year. Basic 1999 dues are \$15,000, and the special assessment for ESA activities is projected at an amount not to exceed \$13,000 with the understanding that the actual billing may be for less than this amount. The special assessment will support continued proactive advocacy of constructive endangered species legislation and participation in newly proposed administrative ESA rulemaking related to habitat conservation plans (HCP) and incidental take permits in a manner that is consistent with Metropolitan's policy principles. It also includes water industry participation in a planned workshop to review habitat conservation planning and how to improve it. Anticipated participants in the workshop include the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis located at the University of California, Santa Barbara, other university academics, federal government agencies, expert HCP practitioners, and economic interest groups such as WUWC.

Metropolitan is a charter member of WUWC and continues to find that its broad-based advocacy is critical to successful achievement of Metropolitan's legislative and regulatory objectives. The O&M Budget includes funds for continued participation in WUWC.

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