

June 25, 1999

To: Board of Directors (Subcommittee on Real Property and Asset Management--
Action)
(Executive Committee—Action)

From: General Manager _____

Submitted by: Peter J. Carpenter _____
Director of Asset Management

Subject: Approve inclusion of and negotiate siting for Western Center for Archaeology
and Paleontology at Eastside Reservoir Recreation Project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board approve inclusion of the concept of the Western Center for Archaeology and Paleontology (Center) in the Eastside Reservoir Recreation Project and authorize the General Manager to negotiate proposed terms and conditions for siting the proposed Center subject to Board approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eastside Reservoir Project (ESRP) including a recreation component, along with the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), was approved by the Board in October 1991. In November 1997, the Board approved the draft Master Recreation Plan for the ESRP. The scope of the draft plan evolved from the conceptual plan described in the FEIR. The draft plan contemplates the development of interpretive centers including displays and a curation facility for pre-historic and historic artifacts.

Metropolitan was asked by the University of California, Riverside to provide a site for the proposed Western Center for Archaeology and Paleontology (Center) within the Eastside Reservoir Recreation Project (Recreation Project). Having worked with the University of California, Riverside and others in evaluating the request, staff recommends including the concept in the project. Further, it is recommended that the General Manager be authorized to negotiate proposed terms and conditions for siting the Center at Eastside. The cost of the planning, development and operation of the Center shall not be borne by Metropolitan, except such cost as will be incurred independent of the Center, such as utilities for Metropolitan's Recreation Project.

JUSTIFICATION

Mitigation measures adopted in the FEIR require preservation of paleontological and archaeological resources in a museum or similar measures. The Center could add an important

visitor element to the Recreation Project to Metropolitan's advantage and there is general local support for the Center concept. It is in Metropolitan's interest relative to Metropolitan's recreation planning process to make a decision at this time regarding the possible location of the Center at Eastside. This will allow the University of California, Riverside and other supporters to raise funds for the planning, development and operation of the Center.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO PROPOSED ACTION

An alternative to the requested action is to defer the University of California, Riverside request to site the Western Center for Archaeology and Paleontology at Eastside under terms and conditions acceptable to the Board.

ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

- The General Manager and Director of Asset Management will continue working with the University of California, Riverside and the Western Center Community Foundation on possible sites.
- The General Manager, Director of Asset Management, and General Counsel, will negotiate terms and conditions for use of the mutually agreed upon site.
- General Manager will request Board approval on the site selected as well as the terms and conditions for site utilization.

CEQA COMPLIANCE / ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In October 1991, the Board certified the FEIR for the ESRP. This action satisfied the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and no additional CEQA documentation is required for the Board to approve the recommended actions. Board certification of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) will be required before the actual construction of the Center and as part of the recreation entitlement process.

PJC/dkm