

- **Board of Directors**
Water Planning and Resources Committee

June 13, 2000 Board Meeting

8-4

Subject

Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between Metropolitan and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) establishing a Metropolitan funded task force to assist in protecting groundwater sources.

Description

This letter seeks authorization to enter into an agreement with LARWQCB establishing a Metropolitan funded task force to assist LARWQCB in protecting local groundwater supplies by working with its staff to identify and assess locations where contaminated soil currently threatens to pollute underlying groundwater resources. The LARWQCB is currently underfunded and a lack of trained personnel is adversely affecting the speed of their contamination and cleanup efforts. The task force would consist of a manager and up to four technical staff positions committed to work with LARWQCB staff for a two-year period. Metropolitan staff would not be authorized to exercise any enforcement powers.

It is anticipated that Metropolitan would initially fund the task force positions at a potential cost of up to \$600,000 per year in staff costs and related expenses for a maximum of two years. Legislation which is now planned, would, if enacted into law, permit LARWQCB to reimburse Metropolitan for its contributions toward funding of the program from funds recovered from responsible parties through enforcement actions or other sources available to the LARWQCB.

By statute, the LARWQCB is charged with the responsibility for protecting ground and surface water quality in its jurisdictional area. In furtherance of that mission, LARWQCB is presently seeking funding and other assistance to establish a program to identify, assess, and where appropriate oversee, soil cleanups to prevent the further contamination of groundwater basins within the geographic area of its jurisdiction. Metropolitan and many of its member agencies rely on local groundwater basins as part of their overall water management and supply planning efforts. Preservation of the quality of those resources, and where applicable, preventing the potential degradation of other basins, including those undergoing major cleanup activities, maximizes storage opportunities and serves the mutual interests of Metropolitan and its member agencies.

Approval of this recommendation would authorize the General Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the LARWQCB to fund, subject to possible reimbursement, a task force made up of Metropolitan employees to assist with the identification and assessment of contaminated sites which currently threaten underlying groundwater resources.

Policy

Pursuant to Section 5108 of the Administrative Code, no expenditure shall be made unless appropriation has been approved by the Board for the purpose intended. The conjunctive use policy adopted by the Board on January 11, 2000, encourages greater interagency cooperation in developing expanded conjunctive use opportunities in the District's service area.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year agreement with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board to establish a task force made up of Metropolitan staff to assist the Regional Board in protecting groundwater supplies.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$600,000 per year for two years.

Option #2

No action.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1.


General Manager

5/26/2000

Date