

- **Water Planning and Resources Committee**

September 11, 2000 Committee Meeting

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**Subject**

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Report on Memorandum of Understanding between Metropolitan and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) establishing a joint effort to protect groundwater resources with the intent to seek reimbursement, should funds become available.

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**Description**

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The General Manager is currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the LARWQCB to establish a joint effort to identify and assess contaminated sites which threaten underlying groundwater resources. The LARWQCB is underfunded and a lack of trained personnel adversely affects the speed of its contamination cleanup efforts.

Metropolitan's contribution to the cleanup effort would consist of a manager and up to four technical staff positions committed to work with LARWQCB staff for up to two years. Metropolitan staff would not be authorized to exercise any enforcement powers.

It is anticipated that Metropolitan will provide the staff positions for a maximum of two years at a potential cost of up to \$600,000 per year in staff costs and related expenses. Legislation now planned for introduction in the next legislative session, would, if enacted into law, permit LARWQCB to reimburse Metropolitan for its contributions toward the program from funds recovered through enforcement actions. Staff is also in discussion with the San Gabriel Valley Basin Water Quality Authority about a financial contribution from that agency to help pay for Metropolitan's costs.

By statute, the LARWQCB is charged with the responsibility for protecting ground and surface water quality in its jurisdictional area. LARWQCB seeks 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.

This program furthers the objective of making water quality and water reliability key components of Metropolitan's mission and is consistent with the goals set forth in Initiatives 2000, as presented to the Board (Item 10-4) at its February meeting. Specifically, by working cooperatively with the LARWQCB, Metropolitan will demonstrate its commitment to preserving and improving the quality of the region's groundwater supplies and its recognition of the critical role those supplies will play in Southern California's future.

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**Policy**

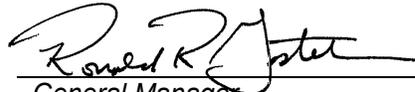
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The conjunctive-use policy adopted by the Board on January 11, 2000, encourages greater interagency cooperation in developing expanded conjunctive-use opportunities in the District's service area.

**Fiscal Impact**

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Allocation of staff resources by the General Manager establishing a joint effort with the LARWQCB to protect groundwater supplies with the intent to seek reimbursement, should funds become available.

  
General Manager

9/7/2000  
Date

BLA #365

## BOARD LETTER ROUTING SLIP

Board Meeting Date \_\_\_\_\_

Board Letter Subject

### *Required Approvals*

<b>Author</b>		
Name _____	Signature _____	
Group Name _____	MetNet Number _____	
<b>FOR CONTENT REVIEW:</b>		
<b>ROUTE TO</b>	<b>DATE SIGNED</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
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**Outreach (Editorial)**

**Legal (Legal)**

**Publishing Services (Formatting)**

**Group Manager** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Audit Review



**Audit** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Board Letter Coordinator**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ MetNet Number \_\_\_\_\_