

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

October 17, 2000 Board Meeting

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9-2

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**Subject**

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Adopt a Board Resolution Directing the Giving of Notice of Potential Discontinuance of Service of Interim Agricultural Water Program Water from October 2001 through October 2002

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**Description**

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Section 132 of the Metropolitan Water District Act (Act) provides that Metropolitan may provide, sell and deliver surplus water not needed or required for domestic or municipal uses within Metropolitan's service area for any beneficial use. Metropolitan sells water for agricultural purposes under this provision at a discounted rate, providing that Metropolitan has the right to discontinue surplus water service, in whole or in part, upon one year's written notice to the purchasers or users of the water in accordance with Section 132 of the Act. That notice shall be given when the Board determines by two-thirds vote that the surplus water is needed for domestic or municipal uses within Metropolitan. Additionally, changes to the Act in 1999 provide that any water, including for agricultural purposes, not sold at a discounted rate is deemed to be for domestic and municipal uses and not surplus water.

Through the Interim Agricultural Water Program (Program), Metropolitan offers lower water rates for agricultural users in exchange for the opportunity to interrupt service. Metropolitan may reduce deliveries to agricultural water users participating in the Program by up to 30 percent prior to any mandatory reduction to municipal and industrial users. In connection with adoption of the Program, the Board adopted a notice of potential whole or partial discontinuance of surplus water deliveries pursuant to Section 132 of the Act. As stated in the April 20, 1994, board letter authorizing the Program, "A similar Resolution should be adopted every year thereafter while the Interim Agricultural Water Program is in effect." The most recent such resolution was adopted by the Board on October 12, 1999. Because a year has elapsed since the last such notice was given, it is necessary that a new notice be issued. The proposed notice of discontinuance of surplus water deliveries will apply only to those users participating in and receiving the discounted rate under the Program.

For these reasons, it is recommended that the Board adopt the attached resolution ([Attachment 1](#)) giving a notice of the potential discontinuance of surplus water deliveries from October 2001 through October 2002.

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**Policy**

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The Metropolitan Water District Act, Section 132; the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Sections 4900-4906 (Interim Agricultural Water Program).

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**Board Options/Fiscal Impacts**

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**Option #1**

Adopt the attached Resolution Directing the Giving of Notice of Potential Discontinuance of Service of Interim Agricultural Water Program Water from October 2001 through October 2002.

**Fiscal Impact:** None. The adoption of the resolution has no fiscal impacts on Metropolitan. Should changes in State Water Project or Colorado River supplies occur, actions the Board takes in the future may have fiscal impacts based upon the amount of reduction in sales of surplus water.

**Option #2**

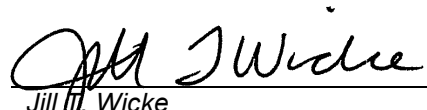
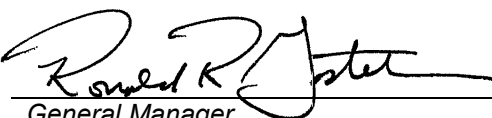
Do not adopt the attached Resolution.

**Fiscal Impact:** Unable to determine at this time. Should changes in State Water Project or Colorado River supplies occur, the option the Board decides to take to meet surplus water demand would determine the fiscal impact. The Board may decide to buy transfer water, produce from storage including conjunctive-use accounts, or allocate other water deliveries under Metropolitan's Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan.

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1.

	9/19/2000
Jill J. Wicke Manager, Water System Operations	Date
	9/27/2000
Ronald R. Jester General Manager	Date

**Attachment 1--Resolution**

BLA #247

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_****RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DIRECTING THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF POTENTIAL DISCONTINUANCE  
OF SERVICE OF INTERIM AGRICULTURAL WATER PROGRAM WATER FROM  
OCTOBER 2001 THROUGH OCTOBER 2002**

Whereas, an earthquake, other catastrophe, or unforeseen events could cause a shortage of water in Metropolitan's service area in the future; and

Whereas, the State's ability to reliably meet Metropolitan's annual requirements for State Water Project supplies requires continued resolution of long-standing Bay/Delta issues through the initiated State Federal (CalFED) environmental decision-making process; and

Whereas, until a long-term resolution of Bay/Delta issues is achieved, State Water Project operating requirements in the Bay/Delta could result in curtailed water deliveries and the potential for future water supply shortages; and

Whereas, if there is insufficient precipitation during the winter of any future year, the State Water Project water supply could be inadequate to meet the demands of contractors of the Project; and

Whereas, under Section 132 of the Metropolitan Water District Act, Metropolitan may serve surplus water if such water is in excess of the domestic and municipal needs or requirements within Metropolitan; and

Whereas, heretofore water for agriculture has been supplied on the condition that such supply can be discontinued subject to the giving of the notice required by said Section 132; and

Whereas, pursuant to California Statutes 1999, chapter 46, section 132 was amended to provide that, commencing January 1, 2000, all water purchased at the full service rate for domestic and industrial uses and used for beneficial purposes, including agriculture, shall be deemed domestic and industrial uses and not surplus water; and

Whereas, Section 132 of the Metropolitan Water District Act requires that Metropolitan give the purchaser or user of surplus water one year's written notice that Metropolitan will discontinue the supply of surplus water; and

Whereas, it is possible that Metropolitan will not have available for delivery water that is surplus to the municipal and domestic needs or requirements within Metropolitan; and

Whereas, pursuant to the Interim Agricultural Water Program approved by Metropolitan on May 10, 1994, in a water shortage Interim Agricultural Water Program deliveries may be cut back up to 30 percent prior to imposition of mandatory targets for firm deliveries; and

Whereas, Metropolitan's Water Planning and Resources Committee has provided an opportunity for member public agencies and other interested parties to come before the Committee and present their views on a proposal to give the one year's notice called for by Section 132 of the

Metropolitan Water District Act discontinuing in whole or in part the supply of surplus water from Metropolitan, and has considered those views.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, with two-thirds of the votes of its members concurring:

1. That this Board determines and declares that all or a portion of the water presently served as Interim Agricultural Water Program water may be needed for domestic or municipal uses within Metropolitan between October 2001 and October 2002 and that Metropolitan may discontinue supplying Interim Agricultural Water Program water in whole or in part at any time; and

2. That the General Manager is directed to give notice of such potential discontinuance to each member public agency presently receiving service of Interim Agricultural Water Program water and to any user who has requested in writing to be notified by mailing a copy of this resolution forthwith; and

3. That this Board hereby delegates to the General Manager its authority to take action with respect to such discontinuance on the terms provided in the Interim Agricultural Water Program, and that any such discontinuance shall only take place upon further action of the General Manager, but without further notice to users of Interim Agricultural Water Program water.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held on October 17, 2000.

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Executive Secretary  
The Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California