

- **Board of Directors**
Communications, Outreach and Legislation Committee

May 15, 2001 Board Meeting

Revision 8-5

Subject

Approve funding for External Affairs operational memberships for fiscal year 2001-02

Description

Metropolitan has significant interest in association memberships that support the Board's policies, strategies and water management priorities. Funding is recommended for the following water-industry leadership organizations:

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)

Largest and oldest coalition of water agencies. Provides forum for exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge to support or oppose legislation, both at federal and state levels. \$12,640

Public Officials for Water & Environmental Reform (POWER)

Provides a forum for water resources discussion by leaders and professionals from the water industry, government, and the environmental community, representing California and other western states. \$5,000

Resource Landowners Coalition

Formed in 1994, the organization's mission is to develop public policy that would facilitate and maximize economic use of resource lands while maintaining open space or rural characteristics. The group focuses on water quality techniques and programs, including incentive-driven watershed management efforts, agricultural land use, and habitat issues. \$10,000

Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District

Coordinates an environmental elementary education program at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve in southwestern Riverside. Programs are typically co-sponsored with the Nature Conservancy. This is the second year of Metropolitan's five-year commitment to sponsor educational programs at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve. Metropolitan anticipates extending its sponsorship for the remaining three years, but the park and open space district should seek other funding following completion of the agreement. \$85,396

Southern California Water Committee, Inc.

Forum for eight Southern California counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Kern, Imperial), in addition to 200 members, representing business, government, water agencies and private citizens. Focus on securing adequate, reliable, affordable, quality supply of water for all California. ~~\$5,000~~ 15,000

Urban Water Institute

Provides non-partisan exchange of information regarding emerging technologies and policy issues to the water resources industry, with emphasis on water economics, management and resources. ~~\$35,000~~ 10,000

Water Education Foundation

Provides broad water education programs, such as the Colorado River project, a one-year water leaders class, water law policy briefings, and others. \$26,000

For fiscal year 2000-01, membership fees for the above-listed organizations totaled \$143,036 165,000. Assuming a 10 percent increase over last year's fees, it is recommended that \$157,340 165,000 be budgeted for these operational memberships fiscal year 2001-02.

The General Manager has reviewed the above listed operational memberships and recommends that funding be provided not to exceed \$157,340 165,000.

The proposed funding for operational memberships is not defined as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the proposed action involves government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code, Sections 11202 & 11203.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Determine that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA per Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines. Approve operational association memberships deemed essential to Metropolitan. These aforementioned memberships do not fall into Corporate Resources, Water System Operations, or Water Resource Management fiscal responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$157,340 165,000

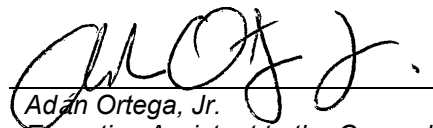
Option #2

Reject funding of operational association memberships.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


Adan Ortega, Jr.
Executive Assistant to the General
Manager for External Affairs

5/15/2001

Date


Ronald R. Jester
General Manager

5/14/2001

Date