

- **Board of Directors**
Executive Committee

May 15, 2001 Board Meeting

8-7

Subject

Authorize payment of \$213,000 for AWWARF's Voluntary Research Subscription Program

Description

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has participated in the American Water Works Association Research Foundation's (AWWARF's) Voluntary Research Subscription Program since 1986. The Board previously authorized funding for the calendar year 2000 Subscription Program in the amount of \$425,000 at the December 1999 meeting. To date, two quarterly subscription payments have been made totaling \$212,000 for the first half of FY 2000-01. AWWARF changed the billing cycle from a calendar year to a fiscal year during the past year. This change in the billing cycle resulted in two quarters of payments due to AWWARF for the second half of FY 2000-01. This letter is requesting Board approval to fulfill the remainder of Metropolitan's funding obligation for FY 2000-01 by authorizing payment of \$213,000 to the AWWARF. Water System Operations will return to the Board for authorization to continue participation in this program as part of the proposed FY 2001-02 budget.

Metropolitan's contribution, along with contributions from other water utilities and consulting firms, will be used to fund necessary applied research projects in the drinking water field. Metropolitan's participation also enables its member agencies to obtain an approximately 60 percent discount in their contribution to the AWWARF program. Collectively, this saves the member agencies an estimated \$240,000 per year. Currently, 22 Metropolitan member agencies are subscribers to the AWWARF Research Subscription Program. [Attachment 1](#) presents background information about the program and its benefits to Metropolitan and our member agencies. Metropolitan currently has a total of 24 active programs totaling approximately \$4.0 million in grant money. ([Attachment 2](#)).

The proposed financial contribution to the AWWARF program is not defined as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the proposed action involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other 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


None

Staff Recommendation

Determine that the proposed financial contribution to the AWWARF program is not subject to CEQA per Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

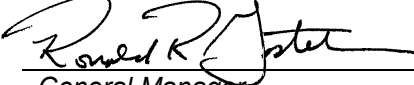
Authorize the remaining payment of AWWARF's Subscription for FY 2000-01

Fiscal Impact: \$213,000



Jill J. Wicke
Manager, Water System Operations

4/19/2001
Date



Ronald R. Jester
General Manager

4/19/2001
Date

Attachment 1 – Detailed Report

Attachment 2 – Total Active AWWARF Grants Awarded to Metropolitan

BLA #993

Detailed Report

AWWARF is a non-profit corporation established in 1967 to promote, coordinate, and finance applied research in the operations and management of public water supply systems. Currently, AWWARF has over 1,000 utility subscribers, 52 consulting firm subscribers and 20 manufacturers. Metropolitan has been a subscriber since the first year of the program.

Applied research topics funded by AWWARF address key problems identified by the water industry and provide essential information for impacting the development of drinking water regulations. This research is critical for the implementation of the "good science" requirement for new regulations contained in the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. Metropolitan and its member agencies have benefited from AWWARF's program in a number of areas, including the Information Collection Rule; the Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products (D/DBPs) Rule; the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule; taste-and-odor-control strategies; and detection and treatment of microbial pathogens. Specifically, AWWARF has funded \$7.5 million on arsenic research, \$3.5 million for perchlorate, \$60.6 million on microbials and DBPs, \$3.5 million for reclamation and reuse projects, and \$32.3 million on *Cryptosporidium*. AWWARF also works with a number of agencies (e.g., Water Environment Research Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to provide co-funding for projects of mutual interest. Furthermore, Metropolitan's Water Quality Section has been awarded grant money from AWWARF to be distributed over the next few years (Attachment 2).

Utility contributions are based on \$1.85 per million gallons delivered per year, with credits given for water purchased from subscribing wholesalers and water sold wholesale. Therefore, Metropolitan covers approximately 60 percent of the AWWARF funding for our member agencies that are AWWARF's utility subscribers. Collectively, this saves Metropolitan's member agencies \$240,000 per year. Currently, 22 of Metropolitan's 27 member agencies are AWWARF subscribers.

**TOTAL ACTIVE AWWARF GRANTS AWARDED TO METROPOLITAN
March-01**

Item No.	Title of Grant Project	Year of Award	*Amount of Award to MWD (\$)
1	Assessment of Molecular Epidemiology of Waterborne Cryptosporidium with Respect to Origin	1996	165,000
2	Distribution of Generated Taste and Odor Phenomena	1996	374,812
3	Case-Study:Disinfection/Disinfection By-Products Regulations	1996	150,000
4	Characterization of Polar Fraction of NOM w/Respect to DBP Form.	1997	250,000
5	Colonization of Biologically Active Filter Media w/ Pathogens	1997	47,500
6	Health Effects of Disinfectants & Disinfection By-Products	1997	10,000
7	Formation, Occurrence, Stability and Dominance of Haloacetic Acids and Trihalomethanes in Treated Drinking Water	1997	30,000
8	Filter Operational Effects on Pathogens Passage	1997	147,500
9	National Assessment of Perchlorate Contamination Occurrence	1998	158,809
10	Disinfection Efficiency & Dose Measurement for Medium Pressure & Pulsed UV Disinfection	1998	37,031
11	National Assessment of MTBE Occurrence in Drinking Water	1998	350,000
12	A Comparative Study of Non-Thermal Technologies for Salinity Removal	1998	63,442
13	Rapid Screening of Pathogens in Water	1998	103,900
14	Feasibility Study to Develop an Artificial Intelligence System for Optimization of WTP Ops	1998	73,000
15	Treatability of Perchlorate Containing Water by Reverse Osmosis	1998	70,000
16	Removal of Bromate & Perchlorate in Conven. Ozone/GAC System	1998	25,000
17	Early Warning Techniques and Communication Plans for Surface Water Taste-and-Odor Events	1999	299,971
18	Comparison of Cell Culture & Animal Infectivity for Detection of Cryptosporidium Parvum	1999	896,778
19	Removal of MTBE with Advanced Oxidation Processes	1999	100,000
20	Inactivation of Pathogens by Innovative UV Technologies	1999	200,001
21	Innovative UV Tech. to Oxidize Organic & Organoleptic Chemicals	1999	5,363
22	Factors Affecting the Formation of NDMA in Water and Occurrence	2000	75,000
23	Cryptosporidium Oocyst Repair Following UV Disinfection	2000	299,797
24	Real-Time On-Line Continuous Monitoring of Cryptosporidium Parvum in Drinking Water	2000	58,233
TOTAL			3,991,137

*Amount managed by Metropolitan which includes payments for subcontractors as applicable.