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

May 15, 2001 Board Meeting

10-4

Subject

Report on fiscal year 2000-01 Innovative Conservation Program Applicant Recommendations

Description

Metropolitan's Innovative Conservation Program (ICP), a component of the Community Partnering Program (CPP), provides grants to explore potential water saving strategies and methods of new water conserving technologies. Eligible are public agencies, member agencies, sub-agencies, community-based organizations, private companies, entrepreneurs, universities, laboratories, research institutes and equipment manufacturers.

The ICP deadline for submittal of applications for FY 2000-01 was set for March 15, 2001. Proposals were received from 35 entities, representing $3.1 million in funding requests. In addition, we received an application from FPM Inc., the inventor of heat–shrunk plastic protection. The request is for $25.583 million to develop materials and methodologies to enhance protective storage over the 62 miles of open Colorado River Aqueduct.

The ICP proposals were evaluated and rated by a seven member panel of Metropolitan and member agency staff. The selection criteria included:

1) Broad-based benefit to Metropolitan and its member agencies. The selected ICP projects have the potential to be applied to all member agencies service areas.

2) Ability of the project to proceed. All of the selected projects are ready to begin.

3) Financial capability of the performing entity. All of the selected projects are capable of being completed and meeting audit requirements.

4) Innovation of the project. Selected projects include new technologies, new markets, and new methods of utilizing existing technology.

Based on the recommendation of the ICP evaluation panel, contracts will be pursued for 11 projects **(Attachment 1)** to proceed. Metropolitan funding will total approximately $247,000. The selected projects are those which complied with all of the basic criteria and offered the strongest attributes in broad based application, feasibility, capability and innovation.

Several of the non-selected applicants are being considered for Metropolitan's Community Partnering Program or the Conservation Credits Program. The others will be kept on file for consideration, if additional opportunities arise.

The next step requires staff to process agreements with the 11 selected firms. Metropolitan staff will monitor the progress of the projects to assure that they are proceeding according to the agreement schedule. Some projects will be completed within six months while others will be monitored for more than one year. At the conclusion of all the projects, a workshop will be held to inform member agencies of each project's results and lessons learned.

The ICP is expected to demonstrate new and innovative ideas on how to better manage our existing water supplies. ICP opens up a new chapter in our conservation efforts, presenting an opportunity for our region to work with businesses and community organizations as never before. The future benefits of the ICP program will be felt not only throughout Metropolitan's service territory, but California and the nation as other water agencies follow our lead.

Policy

By Minute Item 44063, the Board authorized the Community Partnering Program. Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code, Sections 11202 and 11203

Fiscal Impact

$247,000 from budgeted funds in fiscal year 2000-01

4/16/2001
Stephen N. Arakawa *Date*
Manager, Water Resource Management

4/16/2001
Adán Ortega, Jr. *Date*
Sr. Executive Assistant to the General Manager for External Affairs

4/23/2001
General Manager *Date*

Attachment 1 - ICP Recipients

BLA #1050

ICP Recipients

Organization	Project	Innovation
1) City of Anaheim	Watermiser Waterbroom pilot demonstration	The Watermiser Waterbroom is a new technology that uses 75% less water than a standard garden hose for cleaning hard surfaces such as restaurant patios and walkways.
2) Bilingual Landscape Training of San Diego	Guide for landscape water budget/water use tracking	The guidebook is new and will be very helpful to those agencies wanting to perform landscape water budgeting.
3) Capistrano Valley Water District	Plumbers' training seminars	This influential target population has been an untapped resource. Plumbers are very influential in public opinion and acceptance of residential/commercial water conservation technologies. By training this group on new water efficient technologies they will also become ambassadors for our programs.
4) C&A X-Ray, Paramount	X-Ray Processor, Water Saver/Plus recycling system	This is a new product that recycles up to 98% of the rinse water for x-ray film processors. Most hospital x-ray machines operate in ready mode 24 hours per day/ 7 days per week and use approximately 800,000 gallons of water per year. Water is used in x-ray machines to control temperature and for archival quality.
5) City of Corona	Mini-grants for water-wise landscape class projects	The innovative concept of this proposal is the mini-grant aspect. Residential landscape training classes which now can offer participants financial assistance to implement the water efficient techniques learned in the class.
6) CTSI Corp., Tustin	In conjunction with Building Industry Association (BIA), new home construction with evapo-Transpiration (ET) landscape controllers and water-efficient educational materials	This project opens up a whole new area of conservation potential for Metropolitan and its member agencies, new construction. Also, innovative is the partnership with the BIA which instantly gives the program credibility in the new home construction market.

7) Exergy Technology, Irvine	Electro-deionization for industrial rinse water recycling	Continuous Electrodeionization (CEDI) will help industrial customers achieve "closed loop". In industrial recycling applications CEDI has not been demonstrated or documented before. This technology can be used in electronics, metals, food, semiconductors, and pharmaceutical industries.
8) Rose Bowl Operating Co., Pasadena	Drought-resistant landscape demonstration for golf course	This project will be coordinated with Audubon International to replace turf (not in play) with drought tolerant landscaping and trees and non-irrigated material (decomposed granite, mulch), and convert the irrigation to support such. New golf courses in Arizona have half (75acres) the irrigated turf area of older courses in our area.
9) SoilSense, Trabuco Canyon	Evaluation of wireless soil moisture sensors	This product is innovative in that it incorporates radio frequency (RF) wireless technology along with soil moisture sensors and an irrigation controller to create a fully automated efficient irrigation system.
10) City of Torrance	Education or revitalization of wetlands with low water use indigenous plants.	Indigenous plant landscaping project at the new Madrona Marsh Nature Center, which serves as an environmental, scientific and educational center to the region.
11) Western Policy Research, Santa Monica	Residential water pressure reduction pilot program	This project is innovative because it will quantify what water utility operators have anecdotally known, reducing system pressure leads to a decline in water consumption. This study will quantify the impact of reduced pressure on water consumption and customer complaints.