

- **Board of Directors**
Executive Committee

October 16, 2001 Board Meeting

8-5

Subject

Approve funding for operational membership dues for fiscal year 2001/02 for new memberships and memberships that increased by more than 10 percent or \$3,000 of previous annual dues

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:

CORPORATE RESOURCES

American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE - New)

AABE is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy and water policy regulations, research and development technologies, and environmental issues. AABE serves as a resource for policy discussion of the economic, social and political impact of environmental and energy water policies on minorities. It ensures involvement of governmental energy policymaking by recommending capable, sensitive, and informed personnel to appropriate officials. AABE also encourages both the public and private sectors to be responsive to the problems, goals and aspirations of African Americans and other minorities in energy-related fields and encourages students to pursue careers in energy-related fields. Membership dues \$12,000

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Salinity Management Coalition (Coalition - New)

The Coalition currently is an informal organization that was initiated in response to recommendations made at Metropolitan's 1999 Salinity Summit. Participants include Metropolitan, several member agencies, and other water supply and wastewater treatment public agencies and organizations. Metropolitan benefits from participation in the Coalition through the coordination of salinity related activities and through increasing awareness of salinity problems facing southern California. In response to recommendations made at the Coalition's 2001 Salinity Summit, the Coalition decided that a solicitation package would be developed to invite organizations to formally join the Coalition and to provide a one-year, cost-sharing commitment to facilitate professional management. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board approve payment not to exceed \$10,000 to the Coalition for the calendar year 2002, under the condition that the Coalition seeks an open and fair solicitation process, overseen by the appropriate governing committee, for the selection of professional management to provide the necessary leadership. Major financial contributors would serve on this governing committee. Membership dues \$10,000

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

American Water Works Association (AWWA)

AWWA is an international organization dealing with procurement, treatment, and delivery of water. It is the principal association of the water industry. The local unit is the California-Nevada section. A number of Metropolitan employees are members of the association and are actively involved in the activities of the association on the international, national, and state level. Metropolitan has been a member since August 1944. Membership dues \$13,801 (increase of 16 percent actual cash layout over FY 2000/01)

Business and Industry Council on Emergency Preparedness and Planning (New)

This organization provides a forum for information exchange and training for emergency preparedness and planning for public and private organizations, including large and small private business, federal, state, city and county organizations, and law enforcement and fire departments. Membership dues \$262

California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA)

CMUA has represented publicly owned water, gas and electric utilities throughout California since 1933 and is the only association, which combines these important utility services. CMUA is also the only lobbying association, which concentrates on urban water issues to the exclusion of agricultural issues. Metropolitan joined CMUA in September 1946. Metropolitan's Sacramento office works closely with CMUA staff. CMUA and its member electric utilities have also been actively engaged in the establishment, transition phases, operations, and future of the California Independent System Operator (ISO) and Power Exchange (PX). These efforts related to the electrical industry are supported by a special assessment. A total of \$45,297, consisting of \$35,297 membership and special assessment of \$10,000 (increase is special assessment only)

Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC)

WSCC was organized in 1967 to promote reliability and adequacy of bulk power supply through coordinated operation and planning and is now comprised of organizations from the western United States, Canada, and northern Mexico. By having a representative on the council and a member on its standing committees, Metropolitan is apprised of current trends and developments in the fields of electric generation, transmission, and legislation. Metropolitan has been a member of WSCC since its inception. A total of \$29,763, consisting of \$5,000 membership and special ISO assessment of \$24,763 (increase is ISO assessment only)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Operational memberships were previously approved (see [Attachment 1](#)).

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 11202: Payment of Dues; § 11203: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes.

CEQA

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA, because it 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). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the provisions of CEQA per Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to pay the above-listed expected membership dues/assessments for calendar year 2002, to be paid in FY 2001/02.

Fiscal Impact: \$112,000

Option #2


Do not authorize funding one or more of these memberships.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

	9/12/2001
Adán Ortega, Jr. Vice President & Group Manager, External Affairs	<i>Date</i>

	9/13/2001
Ronald R. Gastelum Chief Executive Officer	<i>Date</i>

Attachment 1 – Revised Board Letter 8-5 (dated May 15, 2001), Approve funding for External Affairs operational memberships for FY 2001/02



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

May 15, 2001 Board Meeting

Revised 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

Original Signed by:

5/15/2001

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

Date

Original Signed by:

5/14/2001

Ronald R. Gastelum
General Manager

Date