

- **Board of Directors**
Engineering, Operations and Real Property Committee

October 16, 2001 Board Meeting

9-4

Subject

Authorize entering into professional service agreement(s) for design, project management support, construction inspection, and environmental services for the Coachella Canal Lining Project in the counties of Riverside and Imperial

Description

The Coachella Canal Lining Project (Project) encompasses the concrete lining of approximately 33.2 miles of canal in order to conserve approximately 26,000 acre-feet of water per year presently lost to seepage. This Project is an essential part of Metropolitan's and the state of California's Colorado River strategy, and must follow an aggressive implementation schedule. In April 2001, the Board authorized Metropolitan to enter into a funding agreement with California Department of Water Resources which provides up to \$74 million as reimbursement for costs associated with the design, construction and environmental compliance and mitigation on this Project. In September 2001, the Board further authorized Metropolitan to enter into a construction agreement with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) which establishes responsibilities and a framework for managing the proposed Project.

Pursuant to Metropolitan's objectives and responsibilities as detailed in the above agreements, Metropolitan requires the services of professional consultant(s) experienced in the design and inspection of large canal or water conveyance facilities, project management support and environmental services. Metropolitan's budget for fiscal year 2001/02 did not include provisions for staffing the Project with Metropolitan personnel. To perform the required services utilizing Metropolitan staff, while meeting the Project's aggressive schedule, would require that staff be reallocated from other critical CIP projects. Additional costs would be incurred on the other projects from inefficiencies, delays in schedules, and increased efforts to maintain consistency of product. In the proposed approach, the overall project management function, as well as construction contract administration, will remain the responsibility of Metropolitan staff with appropriate assistance from consultants as necessary. Approval of the recommendation will authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into agreement(s) with various consultant(s) to be selected through Metropolitan's standard proposal and selection process. It is anticipated that the total contract(s) amount will not exceed \$9 million. The terms of the agreement(s) will be specific to work associated with the Project and limited by the scope of work and project duration.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 8115: Contracts over \$250,000

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 8117: Professional and Technical Consultants

CEQA

This board letter seeks approval of the proposed action, i.e., authorize entering into professional and technical service agreements for the Project. The environmental effects of the proposed action have already been contemplated in the previous environmental analysis conducted by the Lead Agency, CVWD, in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Final EIS/EIR) for the Project. CVWD certified the Final EIS/EIR and approved the Project on May 15, 2001. Metropolitan, acting as a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), certified that it had reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIS/EIR and adopted the Lead Agency's findings on September 11, 2001, as

related to the authorization of a construction agreement among Metropolitan, the Bureau of Reclamation, and CVWD. This previous action taken by the Board fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no further CEQA documentation is necessary for the Board to act on the proposed options.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action has been previously addressed in the certified 2001 Final EIS/EIR for the Project and that no further environmental analysis is required.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into one or more professional services agreements not to exceed \$9 million to provide for design, inspection, project management support, and environmental services necessary to facilitate the lining of unlined reaches of the Coachella Canal.

Fiscal Impact: None. The provision of design, project management support, and environmental and inspection services is consistent with the terms of the reimbursable funding agreement with the California Department of Water Resources, authorized by the Board in April 2001.

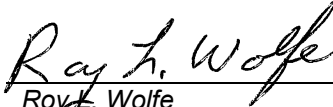
Option #2


Adopt the CEQA determination and reallocate staff from other CIP projects to undertake the Coachella Canal Lining Project; hire additional staff with appropriate skills to backfill vacancies created on other CIP projects.

Fiscal Impact: Increased cost to other projects from delays and inefficiencies while additional staff are hired and trained.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

	10/1/2001
<i>Roy L. Wolfe</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Manager, Corporate Resources</i>	

	10/2/2001
<i>Ronald R. Gastelum</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	