

- **Board of Directors**  
**Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee**

December 11, 2001 Board Meeting

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8-1

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**Subject**

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Adopt resolution to apply for and accept funding, if awarded, pursuant to the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000

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**Description**

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The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently solicited applications from water agencies for grant funding under the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303). DWR requests that the governing body of each applicant adopts a resolution to confirm support for submittal of each grant application. In order to expedite the disbursement of grant funds, DWR further requests that the resolution authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute a funding agreement in the event that Metropolitan's application is selected.

A wide range of groundwater management activities and studies is eligible for Local Groundwater Management Assistance Grants. A total of \$4 million is available and each applicant is eligible for up to \$250,000. The application process opened on September 21, 2001 and closed on October 23, 2001. DWR expects to announce successful proposals by June 2002.

Metropolitan applied for the maximum amount of \$250,000 in grant funding to conduct an updated and enhanced study of brackish groundwater resources development opportunities in Southern California. It is possible that the cost of the study could exceed \$250,000, in which case Metropolitan would need to budget up to \$100,000 over the course of the next two fiscal years to complete the study. The study would focus on regional progress made to date and quantify future water production opportunities and associated costs. Future projects are expected to benefit from reduced costs associated with advances in treatment technology and be challenged by increased costs to deal with the emergence of new contaminants. Methods and costs to dispose of reject brine will be assessed. Results of this investigation would benefit Metropolitan's regional resources planning.

**Attachment 1** is the proposed board resolution in compliance with DWR's requirements to support Metropolitan's grant application.

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**Policy**

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By Minute Item 43619, dated July 13, 1999, the Board adopted the Statement of Needs for the CALFED Bay-Delta program directing staff to seek state and federal funding for Southern California projects in water quality, water recycling, water conservation, groundwater banking and watershed management programs.

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**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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The process of applying for and accepting DWR funding under AB 303 is not defined as a project under the CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA per Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**Board Options/Fiscal Impacts**

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**Option #1**

Adopt the CEQA determination and resolution (a) confirming Metropolitan's grant application and (b) authorizing the CEO to execute a funding agreement if Metropolitan's application is selected for funding.

**Fiscal Impact:** Potential to receive a \$250,000 grant and up to \$100,000 of Metropolitan funding over the next two fiscal years.

**Option #2**

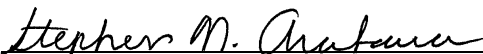
Do not adopt resolution in support of the application.

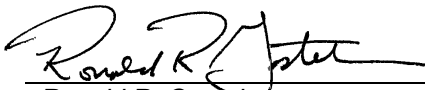
**Fiscal Impact:** Application may be ineligible for consideration of \$250,000 grant.

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

	11/13/2001
Stephen N. Arakawa	<i>Date</i>
Manager, Water Resource Management	

	11/19/2001
Ronald R. Gastelum	<i>Date</i>
Chief Executive Officer	

**Attachment 1 - Resolution to support grant application and to accept funding**

BLA #1397

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REQUESTING**

**AND**

**ACCEPTING FUNDING PURSUANT  
TO  
THE LOCAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000**

RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) that pursuant and subject to all of the terms and provisions of the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (Water Code Section 10795 et seq.) and amendments thereto, application by Metropolitan be made to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to obtain grant funding.

The Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, make investigations, execute, sign, and file such application with the DWR.

The Chief Executive Officer of Metropolitan is also authorized to execute a funding agreement to expedite the disbursement of grant funds received, if Metropolitan's application is selected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Secretary is hereby directed to file forthwith certified copies of this resolution with the DWR.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Metropolitan at its meeting held on December 11, 2001.

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Executive Secretary  
The Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California