

- **Board of Directors**
Engineering and Operations Committee

January 8, 2002 Board Meeting

9-4

Subject

Approve muck disposal sites and expanded staging area for the Arrowhead Tunnels and construction of a pipeline connection to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's Foothill Pipeline as part of the Inland Feeder Highland Pipeline (Approp. 15122)

Description

In February 1993, the Board certified the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (FEIR/EA) for the Inland Feeder Program. Subsequently, five addenda to the FEIR/EA have been reviewed and approved by the Board.

Addendum No. 6 to the FEIR/EA provides for additional muck disposal sites for the Arrowhead Tunnels, an expanded construction work area at the Strawberry Creek Portal site, and the addition of a pipeline segment that connects the Inland Feeder's proposed Highland Pipeline to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's (SBVMWD) Foothill Pipeline. The executive summary of Addendum No. 6 is provided in [Attachment 1](#). Complete copies of the addendum are available in the Executive Office for review.

Muck Disposal Sites

The certified FEIR/EA and addenda identified a variety of muck sites. At the time these documents were prepared, Metropolitan could not reasonably foresee the site-specific aspects of the muck sites. Addendum No. 6 addresses the additional sites:

Whitewater site - The proposed Whitewater site is an old gravel pit in the Whitewater wash adjacent to Interstate 10 near Palm Springs. The site is highly disturbed from previous gravel extraction activities. As a muck disposal option, approximately 300,000 cubic yards of muck could be deposited at this site from the Arrowhead Tunnels. This will involve trucking the muck to the site along surface streets to state Route 30 in San Bernardino to I-10 east. The round trip is approximately 100 miles from the portal sites. The site is owned by Metropolitan.

Strawberry Creek site – The proposed Strawberry Creek muck disposal site is located adjacent to the westerly portal of the Arrowhead East Tunnel and within the 40 acres identified in the original FEIR/EA. By using this location, the contractor can dispose of the muck immediately around the portal site and avoid trucking to off-site locations. The placement of muck at this site will actually create additional useable construction area for the contractor's activities. The site can accommodate up to 180,000 cubic yards of tunnel muck. The site is owned by Metropolitan.

Strawberry Creek Portal

The original program FEIR/EA was based on the contractor mining the Arrowhead East Tunnel in a westerly direction from the City Creek Portal site and exiting at Strawberry Creek. Under the new construction plan, the contractor will mine easterly from Strawberry Creek and connect to the previously mined section at City Creek. Additional staging area is required to accommodate this work. There are three specific modifications associated with the Strawberry Creek staging area: (1) construction trailer area, (2) pipe laydown area, and (3) the addition of a turnaround area for large construction equipment.

SBVMWD Tie-in

In June 2001, Metropolitan entered into an agreement of mutual cooperation with the SBVMWD. The agreement calls for a connection to SBVMWD's Foothill pipeline to the proposed Inland Feeder Highland pipeline which would allow Metropolitan to receive delivery of State Water Project prior to the 2007 completion of the Inland Feeder. The proposed connection includes approximately 900 feet of buried pipeline that will be installed within Metropolitan property located in the city of Highland. The construction, to be completed by late 2002, will link previously completed, or soon to be completed, pipelines and tunnels on the program to permit delivery of up to 250 cubic feet per second of State Water Project water to Diamond Valley Lake. The cost of the connection, including design and construction, is estimated at \$7.9 million. This connection was not included in the original scope of work for the Inland Feeder. It is proposed that the connection be included as part of the Highland Pipeline contract which is scheduled to be awarded in the spring of 2002. Currently, sufficient funding exists within the Remaining Budget category of the program budget to fund this work.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 5108: Capital Project Appropriation

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determinations for Options #1, #2, and #3:

Metropolitan's Board of Directors certified the Inland Feeder Project (i.e., Inland Feeder Program) FEIR/EA in February 1993. The Board also approved at that time the Findings of Fact, the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Inland Feeder Program. In December 2001, Addendum No. 6 to the FEIR/EA was prepared to document the proposed modifications to the Inland Feeder Program as detailed in this board letter.

CEQA and the state CEQA guidelines require the preparation of an addendum to a previously certified EIR if changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred (Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines). The proposed modifications to the Inland Feeder Program also do not meet any of the conditions requiring the preparation of a supplement to an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15163). Instead, the proposed modifications require only minor changes or additions to the evaluation in the certified FEIR/EA to make it adequate under CEQA. None of the proposed modifications are anticipated to result in significant adverse impacts beyond those impacts already disclosed in the original FEIR/EA.

The CEQA determination is:

1. Consider the information contained in Addendum No. 6 to the certified Final EIR/EA and find that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed modifications to the Inland Feeder Program will create any new significant impacts; and
2. Certify Addendum No. 6.

CEQA determination for Option #4:

None required.

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Approve the addition of the muck disposal sites and the expanded Strawberry Creek staging area for the Arrowhead Tunnels.
- b. Approve construction of pipeline connection between SBVMWD's Foothill Pipeline and Metropolitan's proposed Highland Pipeline and utilize existing Inland Feeder Program funding to cover the cost.

Fiscal Impact: \$5.1 million for the SBVMWD connection to be funded using Remaining Budget category from the existing Inland Feeder appropriation

Option #2

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Do not approve the addition of the muck disposal sites and the expanded Strawberry Creek staging area and require the contractor to obtain the sites and work within the existing boundaries of the staging area. This would require the contractor to procure additional property for disposal and staging and pass on the cost to Metropolitan. This would also require additional CEQA review.
- b. Approve construction of pipeline connection between SBVMWD's Foothill Pipeline and Metropolitan's proposed Highland Pipeline.

Fiscal Impact: Increased cost for contractor to procure additional disposal sites and staging area; and \$5.1 million for the SBVMWD connection to be funded using Remaining Budget category from the existing Inland Feeder appropriation

Option #3

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Approve the addition of the muck disposal sites and the expanded Strawberry Creek staging area for the Arrowhead Tunnels.
- b. Do not approve construction of the SBVMWD tie-in as part of the Highland Pipeline contract and issue a separate contract to complete this work. This option would result in a delay in deliveries from SBVMWD, increase administrative costs, and may or may not result in a lower cost for the tie-in.

Fiscal Impact: Increased cost

Option #4

- a. Do not approve the addition of the muck disposal sites and the expanded Strawberry Creek staging area and require the contractor to obtain the sites and work within the existing boundaries of the staging area. This would require the contractor to procure additional property for disposal and staging and pass on the cost to Metropolitan. This would also require additional CEQA review.
- b. Do not approve construction of the SBVMWD tie-in as part of the Highland Pipeline contract and issue a separate contract to complete this work. This option would result in a delay in deliveries from SBVMWD, increase administrative costs, and may or may not result in a lower cost for the tie-in.

Fiscal Impact: Increased cost

Staff Recommendation

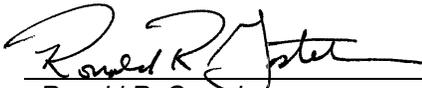
Option #1



Roy L. Wolfe
Manager, Corporate Resources

12/18/2001

Date



Ronald R. Gastelum
Chief Executive Officer

12/19/2001

Date

Attachment 1 – Executive Summary of Addendum No. 6 to the Inland Feeder Program FEIR/EA

BLA #1465

Executive Summary

The purpose of Addendum No. 6 is to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with minor modifications to the previously adopted Inland Feeder Program. A Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (Final EIR/EA) for the original program was certified by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (Metropolitan) Board of Directors in February 1993. The Findings of Fact, Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring Program, along with the original program, were also adopted in February 1993.

Subsequent to the certification of the Final EIR/EA, minor modifications to the original program were analyzed in Addenda Nos. 1 through 5, which were previously certified by Metropolitan's Board of Directors.

Since certification of the Final EIR/EA in 1993 and adoption of the subsequent Addenda, additional minor modifications to the original program are needed. These modifications involve using an existing gravel pit and an area next to Strawberry Creek for disposal of tunnel boring tailings known as "muck" from the Arrowhead Tunnels of the adopted Inland Feeder Program. Additional modifications include a construction staging area and temporary access road realignment at Strawberry Creek and a tie-in connecting the Inland Feeder pipeline to the Foothill Feeder pipeline on an eight-acre parcel located southeast of the town of East Highland in San Bernardino County. Site specific analysis is necessary for these modifications. To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and *State CEQA Guidelines* (Cal. Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq., hereinafter referred to as "*Guidelines*"), Addendum No. 6 to the certified 1993 Final EIR/EA presents an environmental assessment of the following proposed changes to the Inland Feeder Program:

1. Whitewater Muck Disposal Site - site use and transport of muck associated with the Arrowhead Tunnels to an existing gravel pit at Whitewater north of Interstate 10 (I-10) near Palm Springs.
2. Strawberry Creek Muck Disposal Site and Construction Work Area - use of areas around the portal site at Strawberry Creek for muck disposal and construction access and storage.
3. Foothill Feeder Tie-in - use of an eight-acre site along Greenspot Road and Cone Camp Road to install a connection pipe (tie-in) from the proposed Inland Feeder Highland pipeline to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) Foothill Feeder Pipeline.