

- **Board of Directors**

June 24, 2002 Board Meeting

---

**5-1**

---

**Subject**

---

Certify the Program Environmental Impact Report for the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement

---

**Description**

---

On October 18, 1999, the respective boards of the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) released the Key Terms for the Quantification Settlement Agreement as the basis for obtaining public input and completing a proposed Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) among the agencies. In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for implementation of the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement was prepared by all four agencies acting as joint CEQA co-lead agencies.

The QSA is an important component of California's Colorado River Water Use Plan, which ultimately reduces California's reliance on Colorado River water allowing California to live within its basic 4.4-million acre-foot apportionment when necessary. The quantification of the agricultural water users apportionment, as specified in the QSA, will ensure that those who pay for water transfers receive the benefit. Additionally, the QSA will provide a legal framework for the movement of conserved water that complies with the requirements of the Seven Party Agreement and The Law of the River. This will facilitate the various project components of the California Plan such as the IID-SDCWA Transfer and the lining of the All American and Coachella canals.

Upon certification of the completion of the CEQA review process, the respective boards of the four agencies will be able to execute the proposed QSA or not proceed, as appropriate. It is anticipated that staff will return to Metropolitan's Board before the end of the year to request that the Board authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the QSA should everything proceed as planned.

---

**Policy**

---

By Minute Item 43767, dated October 18, 1999, the Board approved the use of the *Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD* (Key Terms) as the basis for completing a new QSA among the parties to the Key Terms.

---

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

---

In compliance with CEQA, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared and circulated for a 30-day public review period, beginning June 6, 2000.

In January 2002, the Draft PEIR was circulated for public review for a period of 60 days. Comment letters were received and are included in the Final PEIR.

At this time, it is requested that the Board certify the Final PEIR. A copy of the Final PEIR, including the revised Draft PEIR and Responses to Comments, is available for review in the Executive Secretary's office.

CEQA determination for Option #1:

Certify that the Final PEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA, certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Final PEIR and that the Final PEIR reflects Metropolitan's independent judgment and analysis.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

**Board Options/Fiscal Impacts**

---

**Option #1**

Certify the Final PEIR as stated above.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Option #2**

Do not certify the Final PEIR.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Staff Recommendation**

---

Option #1



*Dennis B. Underwood*  
Dennis B. Underwood  
Vice President, Colorado River Resources

6/6/2002

Date



*Ronald R. Gastelum*  
Ronald R. Gastelum  
Chief Executive Officer

6/10/2002

Date