

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

June 10, 2003 Board Meeting

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8-7

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**Subject**

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Approve funding of the Community Partnering Program proposals for fiscal year 2003/04

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**Description**

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The Community Partnering Program (CPP), approved by the Board in 2000, provides funds for sponsorships and memberships for educational water awareness programs and activities of nonprofit organizations. The purpose of the CPP is to encourage competition for the best programs that will promote education, outdoor/indoor conservation, water quality and health care initiatives. During fiscal year 2002/03, 103 programs and memberships for regional community organizations and associations were sponsored.

The CPP includes a formal application and three-phase evaluation and rating process. As part of the evaluation process, the Chief Executive Officer stipulated criteria that consider the level of regional coverage, including Metropolitan's entire service area, the service area of a single member agency, multiple member agencies, and, in some instances, statewide programs.

The criteria also stipulate compatibility with the following corporate statement:

*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is seeking to fulfill its mission by encouraging the discussion of water quality, water conservation and water reliability issues important to the region through research, educational collaborations at all levels, and policy forums.*

The CPP application period for 2003/04 fiscal year was from October 1, 2002 – January 31, 2003. The program was promoted on Metropolitan's Web site; announcements also were mailed to member agencies, interested community organizations and educational institutions. Now in its fourth annual cycle, the CEO directed that organizations receiving sponsorships over three consecutive years be given a one-year respite before they would be permitted to compete again to provide other potential partners a sponsorship opportunity. In the end, 150 qualified proposals, (representing \$11.012 million in funding requests) were received, of which more than 50 percent have had no prior Metropolitan affiliation. One hundred thirty-nine applications, each requesting more than \$3,000, were evaluated and rated by a panel of member agency representatives, Metropolitan group managers, designated staff and managers of local community organizations. The panel used a point system to individually determine scores. Staff reviewed and categorized the evaluations to select qualified entities, and recommended the amount of funding to the CEO. As per **Attachment 1**, fifty-three applicants are recommended to the Board for funding in the more than \$3,000 category.

In addition, 44 proposals in the \$3,000 or less category are being reviewed by the CEO, who will make the awards under his board-approved authority. An additional amount of \$45,000 has been set aside for proposals of native plant heritage gardens; these awards will be made later this year. A program tracking system will ensure compliance with CPP criteria.

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**Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 11202: Payment of Dues

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 11203: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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### CEQA determination for Option #1:

Attachment 1 to the board letter is a listing of 65 applications that would be funded under the proposed action. With the exception of 12 applications as noted below, the proposed action to be taken on the 53 applications is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The overall activities involve the awarding of funds by Metropolitan to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement educational water awareness programs, which do not involve physical alteration in the areas affected. As such, the proposed action qualifies for a Class 22 Categorical Exemption (Section 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action for 53 of the 65 applications listed in Attachment 1 qualifies under a Class 22 Categorical Exemption (Section 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

For applications from Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, Ambuehl Elementary School, Friends of Shipley Nature Center, Habitat for Humanity, Mesa Consolidated Water District, Rainbow Municipal Water District, Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, and Yuima Municipal Water District, the proposed activities are categorically exempt from CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding and minor alterations of existing private or public facilities, along with minor modifications in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. These activities would result in negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. As such, the proposed action qualifies under both Class 1 and Class 4 categorical exemptions (Sections 15301 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action for the eight applications noted above qualifies under two categorical exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 4, Section 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

For applications from Altadena Foothills Conservancy, Chapman University, Friends of the Los Angeles Chapter Foundation, and P.F. Breese Foundation, the proposed activities are exempt from CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. These activities involve only a conceptual plan associated with feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions, as well as basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These activities may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to actions which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. As such, the proposed action qualifies both as a feasibility and planning studies exemption (Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines) and as a categorical exemption (Class 6, Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action for the four applications noted above qualifies under both a feasibility and planning studies exemption and a categorical exemption (Class 15262 and Class 6, Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

### CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

**Board Options/Fiscal Impacts**

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**Option #1**

Adopt the CEQA determination and approve funding of the Community Partnering Program, fiscal year 2003/04, for discretionary community activities.

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$650,000

**Option #2**

Reject funding of the Community Partnering Program for fiscal year 2003/04.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

  
Adán Ortega, Jr.

Vice President, External Affairs

5/22/2003

Date

  
Ronald R. Gastelum

Chief Executive Officer

5/23/2003

Date

**Attachment 1 – 2003/04 CPP Applicants Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

BLA #2121

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**EDUCATION**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat -R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Ambuehl Elementary School	<b>N</b>	Elementary school grounds and San Juan Creek habitat restoration	8,000	3,500
County of Orange, Watershed & Coastal Resources	<b>N</b>	Teacher training; watershed education; community outreach; adult education	100,000	4,000
Ecolutions	<b>N</b>	High school education program on reclaiming used oil for 5,000+ students	6,500	5,000
El Centro de Accion Social	<b>R</b>	Water resources education for 300 low-income, new immigrant children in Pasadena summer school program	16,000	7,000
Hemet Library Foundation	<b>N</b>	Establish water resources collection for children and adults	25,000	5,000
Long Beach Water Department	<b>R</b>	Aquarium of the Pacific's scholarship resources education program	12,500	5,000
Riverside County Youth Museum (KidZone)	<b>R</b>	Desal and reverse osmosis lessons; brochures; disadvantaged youth admission program	10,000	5,000
Water Resources Institute, Cal State, San Bernardino	<b>N</b>	Sponsor WRI annual conference: aging water infrastructure	10,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>39,500</b>

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**RESEARCH**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat -R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Chapman University	<b>N</b>	Study of chemical tracers for tracking pollution inputs into local water systems and develop a pollutant database	12,450	5,000
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles	<b>N</b>	Focus groups: (a) health professionals; and (b) pregnant women and women of childbearing age	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>15,000</b>

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat-R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation	<b>N</b>	Habitat restoration, signage, and water resources education at 2-acre Lagoon Discovery Center	34,820	20,000
Altadena Foothills Conservancy	<b>N</b>	Sponsor Watershed Protection & Awareness Program for Altadena residents and youth program	122,250	15,000
Bolsa Chica Conservancy	<b>R</b>	Wetlands research education program for local high school students	11,725	4,000
Bolsa Chica Land Trust	<b>R</b>	Miracles of Marsh outdoor education program that addresses urban watershed management, water quality and treatment	10,000	5,000
California State Parks Foundation	<b>N</b>	Sponsor "Weeds to Wonder" program at Crenshaw HS. Collaborate with Friends of Baldwin Hills and STAR.	40,000	5,000
Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation	<b>R</b>	Peck Water Conservation Park/Hondo Project. San Gabriel River habitat restoration	20,000	5,000
Habitat for Humanity	<b>N</b>	Demonstration garden of native plants in common area of six North Long Beach homes	10,250	5,000
P.F. Bresee Foundation	<b>N</b>	Bimini Ecology Park. Collaborate with North East Trees for natural storm water runoff and habitat restoration	20,780	5,000

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat -R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Public Officials for Water & Environmental Reform (POWER) #1	<b>R</b>	Educational California water resources seminars	10,000	7,500
Rivers Foundation of the Americas	<b>N</b>	San Diego River Green Map	22,000	10,000
San Diego River Park Foundation	<b>N</b>	Water resources education display model and interpretative panels for exhibits	10,000	5,000
San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy	<b>N</b>	Think River! Youth watershed conference for 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students; also, teacher workshops	60,810	10,000
South Coast Resource Conservation & Development	<b>R</b>	"Conservation on Wheels: the pH Experience." Teaches 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> graders the importance of healthy watersheds	10,000	5,000
Sports, Theater, Arts, Recreation Inc. (STAR)	<b>N</b>	Sponsor "Weeds to Wonder" program at Crenshaw HS. Collaborate with Friends of Baldwin Hills and California State Parks Foundation	40,000	5,000
The Chronicles Group	<b>R</b>	One-hour PBS documentary (and 15-minute demonstration video) concerning evolving global water crisis, entitled "Running Dry"	1,200,000	5,000
TreePeople, Inc.	<b>R</b>	Sponsor Eco-Tours for elementary school children and Harvest Moon event	15,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				121,500

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

<b>State Organization</b>	<b>New - N Repeat- R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Sacramento River Watershed Program	<b>R</b>	Partnership with News Channel 10. Promotes public awareness on watershed and water purity issues	20,000	10,000

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat-R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Aquarium of the Pacific	<b>R</b>	Scholarship fund to serve underprivileged children who lack access to the Aquarium scientific learning resources (for 6,000 students)	39,000	20,000
Assn. of Water Agencies in Ventura County	<b>R</b>	Sponsorship Water Symposium & Water Education Forum	8,800	4,000
Eco-Home Network	<b>R</b>	Conservation "Homes for the Future" exhibit at selected LA County homes	19,540	4,000
L.A. Theatre Works	<b>N</b>	Students will take major role in design/construction of an environmental art piece in Canoga Park at the headwaters of the Los Angeles River with the use of native/drought tolerant plants	20,000	20,000
Montebello-Commerce YMCA	<b>N</b>	Pre-school water awareness program	16,000	4,000
TODEC Legal Center	<b>R</b>	Educational public outreach program to limited and non-English speaking Riverside County residents on regional water issues	12,500	5,000



**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat-R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Vallecitos Water District	<b>R</b>	Youth public outreach campaign at San Marcos Boys and Girls Club: water awareness and education	68,500	5,000
Water Conservation Garden Authority	<b>R</b>	Public awareness campaign includes eight street light banners	12,090	5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>77,000</b>

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**HERITAGE GARDEN PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat -R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Anaheim Beautiful	<b>R</b>	Native Plant Garden at Western HS in Anaheim	49,500	10,000
Cal Poly Foundation, Cal State Pomona #1	<b>R</b>	Phase II: expand education program on native plant garden for students and teachers at University's AGRIsapes	29,225	10,000
City of San Juan Capistrano	<b>N</b>	So. Cal. Heritage Garden, signage and public outreach at Montanez Adobe	19,300	4,000
Crescenta Valley Water District	<b>N</b>	Headquarters' native plant garden and education program	15,000	10,000
Friends of Shipley Nature Center	<b>N</b>	Create a 1-acre nature center and six native plants gardens	50,000	5,000
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	<b>R</b>	Water-wise demonstration garden upgrade at Calabasas Community Center	30,000	7,500
Mesa Consolidated Water District	<b>R</b>	Native plant/irrigation/conservation demonstration garden	27,000	5,000
Pasadena Water & Power #2	<b>R</b>	Arlington Native/Mediterranean Garden; partner w/college students	10,000	5,000
Rainbow Municipal Water District	<b>N</b>	Create headquarters' community conservation and native plant garden	56,050	10,000
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District	<b>R</b>	Upgrading of antiquated research center (Land Use Learning Center) to state-of-the art natural resource education & community conservation center (incl. demonstration garden)	10,000	5,000
San Marcos Chamber of Commerce	<b>N</b>	Native plant landscaping for facility frontage; \$5k toward community outreach	15,000	5,000

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**HERITAGE GARDEN PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat-R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Theodore Payne Foundation	<b>R</b>	Sponsor staff position for native plant training program directed at government and nonprofit organizations	45,800	5,000
Three Valleys MWD	<b>R</b>	Native plant landscape and signage for the TVMWD headquarters	13,800	5,000
Western Municipal Water District	<b>R</b>	Upgrade Western's Landscape Southern California Style; signage for the one-acre conservation garden	54,800	10,000
Yuima Municipal Water District	<b>N</b>	Renovate existing xeriscape garden; installed in 1989	10,000	4,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				100,500

**2003/04 Community Partnering Program Applicants  
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS**

<b>Regional and Local Organizations</b>	<b>New - N Repeat -R</b>	<b>Description Of Program To Be Funded</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
Baldwin Park Chamber of Commerce	<b>R</b>	Education program for water awareness and conservation program	24,634	5,000
Building Industry Association of Southern California	<b>R</b>	Workshop on water issues; media outreach, publications	26,000	15,000
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership	<b>R</b>	Sponsorship for water issues conference	10,000	5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>				25,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>				378,500