MWD
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ITEM

- **Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee**

August 18, 2003 Committee Meeting

7c

Subject

Report on fiscal year 2002/03 Innovative Conservation Program Grant Recipients

Description

Attachment 1 provides a description of the ten projects awarded grants under Metropolitan's Innovative Conservation Program (ICP). Contracts were executed in June to provide a program total of $250,000 to support investigations regarding each innovation idea. Study results will benefit the region with objective information on potential for new directions in water conservation. Reports are due by June 2004 and will be shared with the member agencies.

Metropolitan launched the pilot ICP in 2001 to identify and implement water saving strategies and technologies with regional benefit. In August 2002, the Board approved a sustained biennial ICP. Several new ideas are already benefiting the region.

In January 2003, ICP proposals totaling $8.4 million in funding requests were received from more than 60 applicants including public agencies, member agencies, subagencies, community-based organizations, private companies, entrepreneurs, universities, laboratories, research institutes, and equipment manufacturers. Proposals were evaluated and rated by a five-member panel of experts, which consisted of representatives from member agencies, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the environmental organization Mono Lake Committee, a leading landscape architecture firm, and Metropolitan staff.

Based on the evaluation criteria (**Attachment 2**), the panel recommended ten projects for grant funding. Metropolitan will provide 80 percent of each grant award up front, with the remaining funds provided when projects are completed and all reports submitted. Metropolitan staff will monitor progress according to a schedule provided by the applicants. It is anticipated that some projects will be completed within six months, while others will take about a year. A workshop will be held to inform member agencies of project results and completion.

The ICP continues a new chapter in our conservation efforts, presenting an opportunity for our region to work directly with those on the leading edge of water conservation technology.

Policy

By Minute Item 44063, dated June 13, 2000, the Board authorized the Community Partnering Program. Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code § 11202 and § 11203

By Minute Item 44974, dated Aug. 20, 2002, the Board authorized the Innovative Conservation Program on a biennial basis

Fiscal Impact

$250,000 from budgeted funds

6/13/2003
Stephen N. Arakawa *Date*
Manager, Water Resource Management

6/17/2003
Ronald R. Gastelum *Date*
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment 1 – ICP Grant Award Recipients

Attachment 2 – Innovative Conservation Program Evaluation Criteria

BLA #2012

ICP Grant Award Recipients

Organization	Project	Innovation
1) Fisher-Nickel, Inc. Food Service Technology Center	Evaluating water savings potential of commercial "connectionless" food steamers	Connectionless steamers are a new technology which use 85% less water than compartment steamers in commercial kitchens
2) City of San Diego	Evaluate the effectiveness of an instant hot water system	Thousands of gallons of water are wasted every year in every home waiting for the hot water to arrive at the faucet. This technology would allow for instant hot water to be delivered to the faucet
3) H20 – Less Lawns & Turf	Artificial lawn demonstration test project	Astro Turf has been providing sporting surfaces for professional sports teams for 38 years. Recently, the introduction of a natural grass replica with plush polyprophelene blades for residential and commercial sites has been introduced. This study will document the customer acceptance and water savings potential.
4) Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)	Swimming Pool Cover Rebate Survey	Swimming pool evaporation results in thousands of gallons of water loss every year. No water agency has offered rebates and studied their effect. This study will evaluate the effectiveness of the IEUA pilot rebate program to provide much needed data to Metropolitan and its member agencies.
5) Cal Poly Pomona Foundation	Using surfactants in optimizing water usage in turf and ornamentals	Surfactant technology, allowing for better penetration of water into the soil, has been developed during the last few years but its use has been limited in turf and ornamentals

Organization	Project	Innovation
6) Otay Water District	Native plant and drought tolerant plant pilot incentive program	The idea of installing water-wise plants is not new but the idea of providing incentives toward encouraging their installation has only been attempted by a few water agencies and none in southern California.
7) Digital Sun Inc.	Efficiency of closed loop irrigation control	The technology is based on an innovative low-cost wireless sensor probes. The smart probes provide precise control by monitoring the condition of the soil with a suite of sensors that detect soil temperature, moisture, air temperature, relative humidity and light
8) Aquacraft Inc.	Water conservation opportunities in supermarkets	Evaporative condensers that cool the refrigeration systems in supermarkets use thousands of gallons of water per year. Through more sophisticated water treatment systems and controls savings of 500,000 gallons or more may be realized.
9) Monte Vista Water District	Flow control valve study	This technology will provide residents and property owners the opportunity to retrofit older faucets with flow control valves to reduce water usage.
10) Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden	Root scorch prevention of container- grown California native plants sold in the retail trade	This research will investigate several different types of containers and various ways of potting with infills to insulate roots from the heat.

Innovative Conservation Program
Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Maximum Points
1) Project Management Team	25
2) Project Plan	125
3) Benefit to All Member Agencies	125
4) Verification of Water Savings	50
5) Innovativeness of the Project	125
6) Appropriateness of Requested Funding vs. Savings Potential	50
7) Promote the Installation and/or Public Awareness of Native Plants	75
Total	575