

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

June 8, 2004 Board Meeting

8-1

Subject

Adopt resolution to accept \$609,500 in state grant funds to determine the sources of microbial loading at Castaic Lake

Description

This letter seeks a resolution to accept \$609,500 from Proposition 13 for a three-year project to determine the sources and loadings of *E. coli* bacteria (an indicator of fecal contamination) at Castaic Lake, a State Water Project reservoir in Southern California. Funding will be obtained through the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program under Agreement No. 03-145-554-0 for project entitled "Assessing the Occurrence and Sources of *E. coli* and EC 0157 Contamination in Castaic Lake".

Background

The Castaic Lake grant will be used to assess the sources and loading for elevated levels of *E. coli* bacteria in the Castaic watershed. Routine microbiological monitoring conducted at the Jensen plant influent has revealed elevated levels of *E. coli* during the November through March time period in recent years. The presence of *E. coli* bacteria is associated with fecal contamination and may indicate an increasing risk of pathogens in this reservoir. Because *E. coli* bacteria may originate from humans, livestock, or wildlife, further investigation is warranted into the source of contamination.

The State Water Resources Control Board awarded Metropolitan a \$609,500 grant funding under Proposition 13 to identify the source(s) of contamination, conduct a watershed assessment and implement appropriate follow-up measures that reflect best management practices. In accordance with the SWRCB grant funding procedures, Metropolitan's Board must adopt a resolution to accept the grant funds and must designate the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contracts. The resolution is presented in [Attachment 1](#).

Policy

By Minute Item 42820, dated February 10, 1998, the Board adopted the Source Water Quality Protection Policy Principles.

By Minute Item 43964, dated April 11, 2000, the Board adopted the Watershed Management Policy Principles.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, since it involves 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 that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Accordingly, this 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 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

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and the resolution in **Attachment 1**.

Fiscal Impact: Receipt of \$609,500 in state funds through the SWRCB under the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. Metropolitan will contribute approximately \$129,000 in matching funds for staff and contract costs.


Option #2

Do not adopt the resolution in **Attachment 1**.

Fiscal Impact: Forgo \$609,500 in state Proposition 13 funds.


Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Jiff T. Wicke
Manager, Water System Operations

5/17/2004
Date



Ronald R. Gastelum
Chief Executive Officer

5/17/2004
Date

Attachment 1 – Resolution

BLA #2859

RESOLUTION ____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACCEPTING FUNDING PURSUANT
TO THE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM OF THE
SAFE DRINKING WATER, CLEAN WATER, WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD
PROTECTION ACT (PROPOSITION 13, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 2)**

FOR

**CASTAIC LAKE *E. coli* SOURCES AND LOADING PROJECT
(AGREEMENT NO. 03-145-554-0)**

WHEREAS, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Proposition 13, Chapter 7, Article 2) appropriated to the State Water Resources Control Board local assistance grants to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California payable from the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Subaccount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California that pursuant to and subject to all the terms and provisions of Proposition 13 funds, Metropolitan shall accept \$609,500, and any related future amendments, in grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Castaic Lake *E. coli* Sources and Loads Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manager, Water System Operations, is hereby authorized to sign the agreement, and any future amendments, on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Secretary is hereby directed to file forthwith certified copies of this resolution with the State Water Resources Control Board.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held June 8, 2004.

Executive Secretary
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California