

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

June 8, 2004 Board Meeting

8-12

Subject

Approve funding of the Community Partnering Program proposals for fiscal year 2004/05

Description

The Community Partnering Program, approved by the Board in 2000, funds sponsorships and memberships for educational water awareness programs and activities of nonprofit organizations. The CPP encourages competition for the best programs that promote education, outdoor/indoor conservation and water quality initiatives. During fiscal year 2003/04, the CPP sponsored 97 programs and memberships for regional community organizations and associations.

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 the 2004/05 fiscal year was from October 1, 2003–January 31, 2004. The program was promoted on Metropolitan's Web site and through announcements mailed to member agencies, interested community organizations and educational institutions. Now in the CPP's fifth annual cycle, the CEO directed organizations receiving sponsorships in 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, 139 qualified proposals (representing \$2.409 million in funding requests) were received, of which more than 40 percent had no prior Metropolitan affiliation. Some 124 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](#), 55 applicants are recommended to the Board for funding in the more than \$3,000 category. In addition, 43 proposals in the \$3,000 or less category are being reviewed by the CEO, who will make the awards under his board-approved authority. A program tracking system will ensure compliance with CPP criteria.

Policy

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)

CEQA determinations for Option #1:

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, County of Orange (Watershed & Coastal Resources), Ecolutions, El Centro de Accion Social, Friends of Shipley Nature Center, Habitat for Humanity South Bay/Long Beach, Public Officials for Water & Environmental Reform, San Diego River Park Foundation, TODEC Legal Center, TreePeople, Inc., and Western Municipal Water District

The activities as proposed by the 11 qualified applicants were previously determined to be categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines. The overall activities were found by the Board to be exempt under several exemptions, i.e., Sections 15262, 15301, 15304, 15306, and 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines, on June 10, 2003. A Notice of Exemption (NOE) was filed on those applications at that time. With the current board action, no substantial change proposed to the activities is associated with the 11 applications since the original NOE was filed. Hence, the previous environmental documentation in conjunction with these applications fully complies with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. Accordingly, no further CEQA documentation is necessary for the Board to act with regards to the proposed action.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action associated with the 11 applications on behalf of the above-mentioned entities has been previously addressed in the 2003 NOE (Sections 15262, 15301, 15304, 15306, and 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines) and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required.

Amigos de los Rios, Ballona Wetlands Foundation, California Science Center Foundation, City of San Diego, City of San Diego Water Department, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Friends of Baldwin Hills, Heal the Bay, Los Angeles County Education Foundation, OCWD/National Water Research Institute, San Diego BayKeeper, San Diego River Park-Lakeside Conservancy, The River Project, Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation, Urban Water Institute Inc., West Los Angeles College, and Windows-On-Our-Waters

The proposed activities associated with the 19 qualified applicants are categorically exempt from CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed activities involve the awarding of funds by Metropolitan to public agencies and nonprofit organizations to implement educational water awareness programs and training, which do not involve physical alteration in the areas affected. Accordingly, 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 19 applications on behalf of the above-mentioned entities qualifies under a Class 22 Categorical Exemption (Section 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Bonita Unified School District, Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, Charter Oak High School, Chula Vista Nature Center, City of Chino Hills, City of Oxnard Water Division, City of Yorba Linda (Yorba Linda Public Library), COT Parks and Recreation/Friends of Madrona Marsh, Crescenta Valley Water District, Discovery Science Center, El Modena High School Landscape Heritage Garden, Foundation for Pierce College (Botanical Garden), Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation, Hurst Ranch Historical Foundation, Olive Branches (a project of Community Partners), Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Partners of Parks-Friends of El Dorado Nature Center, Pilgrim Place, and Pitzer College.

The proposed activities associated with the 20 qualified applicants 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. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Classes 1 and 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 20 applications on behalf of the above-mentioned entities qualifies under two categorical exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 4, Section 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Friends of the Los Angeles River, Pacoima Beautiful, and Tides Center/Marine Education Project

The proposed activities associated with the three qualified applicants are categorically exempt from CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding for 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. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action for the three applications on behalf of the above-mentioned entities qualifies under a categorical exemption (Class 6, Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Rio Hondo College Foundation and Thirty-Second Street Canyon Task Force

The proposed activities associated with the two qualified applicants 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. In addition, the proposed action involves the funding for 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. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Classes 1, 4, and 6 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15304, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action for the two applications on behalf of the above-mentioned entities qualifies under three categorical exemptions (Classes 1, 4, and 6; Sections 15301, 15304, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determinations and approve funding of the Community Partnering Program, fiscal year 2004/05, for discretionary community activities.

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$650,000


Option #2

Reject funding of the Community Partnering Program for fiscal year 2004/05.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

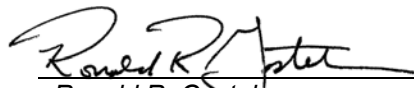
Option #1



Adán Ortega, Jr.
Vice President, External Affairs

5/18/2004

Date



Ronald R. Gastelum
Chief Executive Officer

5/18/2004

Date

Attachment 1 – 2004/05 CPP Applicants Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)

BLA #2842

**2004/05 Community Partnering Program Applicants
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

EDUCATION

Regional and Local Organizations	New - N Repeat -R	Description of Program to be Funded	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
Amigos de los Rios	N	“Know your native plants” outdoor education program	10,000	6,000
Ballona Wetlands Foundation	R	Expansion of Wonders of Wetlands team curriculum	10,890	4,000
Bonita Unified School District	R	Education program on native/drought tolerant plants to help promote water conservation program	80,000	12,000
California Science Center Foundation	R	Environmental science education and literacy program	25,000	5,000
Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens	N	Native plants tour. Educational program signage and materials	10,950	10,000
Charter Oak High School	N	Environmental systems landscape design project (signage and brochures)	9,000	5,000
Chula Vista Nature Center	N	Watershed health education program and public outreach	82,100	15,000
County of Orange, Watershed & Coastal Resources	R	Watershed/Education displays	100,000	3,500
Eastern Municipal Water District	R	Virtual reality wetland programs for seven school districts	10,000	5,000
Ecolutions	R	High school education program on reclaiming used oil for 5,000+ students	7,500	5,000
El Centro de Accion Social	R	Water resources education for low-income, new immigrant children in Pasadena summer school program	16,000	5,000
Los Angeles County Education Foundation	N	Water education outdoor science school program	24,826	5,000
Olivenhain Municipal Water District	N	Conservation program to encourage the use of native plants	30,150	10,000
Partners of the Park – Friends of El Dorado Nature Center	R	Wetland and marine science education project	32,500	5,000
Rio Hondo College Foundation	N	Native plant education and conservation program	25,587	10,000
Tides Center / Marine Education Project	R	Phase II of native plant restoration project including interpretive exhibit	10,000	5,000
TOTAL			484,503	110,500

**2004/05 Community Partnering Program Applicants
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Regional and Local Organizations	New – N Repeat-R	Description of Program to be Funded	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation	R	Habitat restoration, signage, and water resources education at 2-acre Lagoon Discovery Center	26,450	10,000
Friends of the Angeles Chapter Foundation	R	Development of river outlook exhibit for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center	10,000	7,500
Friends of the Los Angeles River	N	State of the River: a report on the health of the Los Angeles River	4,000	4,000
Habitat for Humanity, South Bay	R	Demonstration garden of native plants in common area of Harborside Terrace	15,000	7,000
Heal the Bay	R	Junior scientist program / after-school program for more than 3,000 students	43,280	10,000
Public Officials for Water & Environmental Reform (POWER)	R	Educational California water resources seminars	10,000	7,500
San Diego BayKeeper	N	Project SWELL: Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership curricula	8,500	5,000
San Diego River Park - Lakeside Conservancy	N	Community outreach program	12,450	4,500
San Diego River Park Foundation	R	Water resources education at San Diego River Garden	25,000	10,000
The River Project	N	Water resources education for elementary school students for more than 250 elementary school students	20,000	5,000
Think Earth Environmental Education Foundation	R	Environmental education program for 30 schools	25,000	5,000
TreePeople, Inc.	R	Eco-Tours for approximately 10,000 school children	20,000	7,500
Windows-On-Our-Waters	R	TidePool Cruiser Environmental Education Project for 30 elementary schools	15,000	6,000
TOTAL			234,680	89,000

**2004/05 Community Partnering Program Applicants
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Regional and Local Organizations	New – N Repeat-R	Description of Program to be Funded	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
City of Chino Hills	R	Construction of a water cycle model exhibit for the city's outreach program	14,350	6,000
City of Oxnard	R	Water division outreach trailer program for more than 20,000 students annually	42,000	5,000
City of San Diego	R	Public outreach and education to Hispanic community	68,095	6,000
City of San Diego Water Department	R	Outreach program on recycled water (Educational Video)	82,000	5,000
Cucamonga Valley Water District	N	Children's water/environmental festival for 600 students	11,400	5,000
Discovery Science Center	N	California Water Discovery Park including interactive exhibits (science show) for more than 170,000 visitors annually	50,000	20,000
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	N	Community water festival	8,850	5,000
Hurst Ranch Historical Foundation	R	Interpretive Museum exhibit on new water-saving techniques	16,000	5,000
OCWD/National Water Research Institute (formerly Blue Planet)	R	Orange County Children's Water Education Festival for more than 7,000 students	10,000	5,000
Otay Water District	R	Public Outreach for CA native plant landscape project	4,500	3,500
Pacoima Beautiful	R	Community outreach / youth education / restoration project for more than 300 students	20,000	4,500
Pasadena Museum of History	N	Historic Water exhibit for Pasadena & West San Gabriel Valley region	26,000	6,500
Thirty-Second Street Canyon Task Force	N	Community outreach / elementary school education for more than 500 students	33,250	5,000
TODEC Legal Center	R	Outreach program to non-English speakers in the Riverside County area	12,000	5,000
Urban Water Institute	R	Annual water resources education conferences	50,000	8,000
TOTAL			448,445	94,500

**2004/05 Community Partnering Program Applicants
Funding Recommended (valued over \$3,000)**

HERITAGE GARDEN PROGRAMS

Regional and Local Organizations	New – N Repeat –R	Description of Program to be Funded	Funding Request	Recommended Funding
City of Yorba Linda	N	Signage & materials for the redesigned native botanic garden	31,000	7,500
City of Torrance Parks & Recreation Dept. / Friends of Madrona Marsh	R	Madron Marsh native plant garden signage project for more than 2,500 visitors	15,500	10,000
Crescenta Valley Water District	R	Demonstrative signage for La Crescenta East Town Native Plant Spot Park	24,500	7,500
El Modena High School Landscape Heritage Garden	R	Education materials for native plant demonstration garden (for close to 2,500 students)	9,250	7,000
Foundation for Pierce College – Botanical Garden	N	Interpretive signage & informational brochure for garden visitors	16,392	5,000
Friends of Baldwin Hills	R	Native plant and watershed education program	15,800	5,000
Friends of Shipley Nature Center	R	Exhibits and printed materials for Shipley Nature Center	40,000	12,500
Olive Branches, a project of Community Partners	N	Native plant reading garden and educational garden for more than 400 students	8,409	5,000
Pilgrim Place	N	Water conservation display and education component	16,530	5,000
Pitzer College	N	Community outreach on integrating sustainable landscapes	10,000	5,000
Western Municipal Water District	R	Phase II of the water-wise zone (H2O info kiosk) for more than 10,000 visitors	15,500	10,000
TOTAL			202,881	79,500