

## • Water Resource Management Group Manager's Update

### Summary

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Following is a summary of Water Resource Management Group key activities for the month of September 2004.

### Detailed Report

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#### Resource Implementation

**Palo Verde Irrigation District** - On August 18, 2004, the Palo Verde Irrigation District and Metropolitan executed an agreement for a 35-year land management and water supply program. The agreement is consistent with the revised principles adopted by the Board in May 2004. The landowner sign-up process was initiated in August and is scheduled to end in November 2004. Metropolitan can expect between 25,000 and 111,000 acre-feet of water to be made available annually depending on Metropolitan's call. The landowner sign-up process is going well, and to date, over half of the irrigated acreage in the Palo Verde Valley has been signed up for the program. This milestone was a condition precedent that required at least half of the irrigated acreage of the Valley to participate into the program for the program to become operative.

**Protector del Agua Program** - Metropolitan received 10 proposals in response to the Request for Qualifications soliciting instructors and related services for the Protector del Agua Program. Staff is currently finalizing evaluation and selection to develop a list of qualified vendors. The current vendor agreement, which expires at the end of September, will be amended to extend the current term through December 2004 to provide uninterrupted instruction for scheduled classes and transition to new vendors.

**High Efficiency Clothes Washer Program** - Metropolitan's High Efficiency Clothes Washer Program is experiencing record levels of rebate activity with the use of Proposition 13 grant funds in retrofitting conventional washers in Metropolitan's service area. The program started in March 2004 on a first come, first serve basis, and the response has been overwhelming. Rebate activity thus far has exceeded staff expectations, with the average rebate activity increasing from 2,800 to 4,300 rebates per month between May and August.

Through August 2004, the program has expended 60 percent of grant funds for about 19,000 rebates. To manage the remaining funds, an addendum was added to our master conservation agreements with member agencies to allocate units based on performance.

Based on current rebate activity rates, staff estimates that grant funding would be exhausted before the end of December 2004. In consultation with the member agencies, staff is currently exploring additional funding opportunities beyond the conclusion of the current program.

**Seawater Desalination** - In July 2003, Metropolitan's Board authorized \$250,000 for desalination research, of which \$50,000 would be provided to each of the five member agencies that submitted proposals under the Seawater Desalination Program. Metropolitan's financial assistance would be used to advance investigations needed to plan and design projects.

Staff is currently finalizing an agreement with West Basin Municipal Water District, which is expected to be executed in October 2004. Agencies that have already executed research-funding agreements include Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Long Beach Water Department, and San Diego County Water Authority.

#### Resource Planning and Development

**Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP)** - On September 9, 2004, representatives from 16 Member Agencies and the Department of Water Resources attended a Metropolitan kickoff meeting for the 2005 update of the RUWMP. At the meeting, staff reviewed the schedule for completing Metropolitan's RUWMP and highlighted those areas where Metropolitan expects significant coordination with the Member Agencies. Staff also distributed to the Member Agencies the initial data set of demographics, local supplies and demands on Metropolitan. Further, legal staff reviewed some of the new state requirements under the Urban

Water Management Plan Act. Metropolitan's next step will be to contact those agencies that were unable to attend to distribute the initial data set and offer to meet and review the data.

**System Overview Study** - Metropolitan is updating its 1996 System Overview Study. This study analyzes the existing system and determines the size and the online dates for facilities needed to deliver the imported supplies established in Integrated Resources Program resource targets. The major components to be analyzed are facilities needed in Riverside County, including treatment and conveyance facilities; the Central Pool Augmentation project; San Diego Pipeline 6, West Valley conveyance; and the enlargement of the East Branch of the California Aqueduct.

The East Branch enlargement would allow Metropolitan to fully utilize its State Water Project supplies and meet projected service area demands. In 1986, Metropolitan entered into an amendment to its State Project Contract with the California Department of Water Resources to enlarge the capacity of the East Branch. Six other State Water Project contractors also agreed to pay for a share of the enlargement. The amendment requires DWR to commence enlargement upon direction from Metropolitan. Analysis of the timing and cost of the expansion will be included in the System Overview Study.

Staff is analyzing the way peaking factors are determined. Staff will determine if a revised statistical approach would be superior to a purely historic method. The recommendations of the study will be included in the System Overview Study and the resulting peak factors will be used to determine size and timing of needed facilities.

Staff has received officially released updates of demographic projections from the Southern California Association of Governments and the San Diego Association of Governments. These projections, which include refinements from the 2000 U.S. Census, are being incorporated into updated water demand projections for use in the System Overview Study.

Staff will provide monthly updates to the Board in the Water Resource Management Group Manager's report. Staff anticipates having initial findings of the System Overview Study in December, and will present these findings to the Board in January.

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