

• Water Resource Management January 2005 Activity Report

Summary

The following is a summary of Water Resource Management Group key activities for the month of January 2005.

Detailed Report

Planning

System Overview Study – Staff gave a presentation on the System Overview Study Update at the January Member Agency Manager’s Meeting describing the remaining process and schedule. Staff has also scheduled six technical briefing meetings with member agencies during February throughout the service area to present and discuss the preliminary findings of the System Overview Study Update.

California Water Plan Update – Staff participated in the January 20, 2005 Advisory Committee Meeting for the California Water Plan, providing input on a review guide that will accompany the public review draft of the plan in February 2005. Staff’s efforts have focused on ensuring long-term planning principles and direction. In addition, staff has been coordinating with other urban water interests to provide comments to the plan. Statewide public hearings and outreach are tentatively scheduled for March and April 2005. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is expecting to release the final California Water Plan in June 2005.

Imported Supply

SWP Allocation Increase – DWR recently increased the calendar year 2005 State Water Project allocation to 60 percent of the contractors’ Table A amounts as a result of recent above-normal precipitation, storage, and a revised water supply determination procedure. Based on this allocation, Metropolitan could divert nearly 1.15 million acre-feet of Table A supply in 2005. In addition, Metropolitan will have access to additional supplies through its SWP carryover storage, unscheduled Article 21 supply, and groundwater storage accounts.

California Energy Commission Workshop – The California Energy Commission (CEC) and DWR held a joint workshop on statewide water-energy relationships. Topics of interest included water conservation, upcoming changes in treatment and delivery, impacts of hydrologic variability and climate change, and new actions that the CEC could take to assist water agencies. Metropolitan provided comments describing the imported water system, key variables affecting energy needs, and Metropolitan’s resource strategy in conservation and local supply actions benefiting both water and energy resources. The CEC will be using the information it obtains to guide inclusion of water supply considerations in its next annual update of its integrated energy resources plan.

Imperial Irrigation District Conservation Payment – The operation of projects under the IID/MWD Water Conservation Program continues as planned and budgeted. In January 2005, Metropolitan made an initial payment of \$4.6 million to cover the operations and maintenance costs of the program for the first half of 2005. The remainder of the costs for 2005 will be paid in July. The amount of conserved water available to Metropolitan during 2005 is 81,940 acre-feet with the remaining 20,000 acre-feet available to Coachella Valley Water District, consistent with the QSA.

Initial 2005 Colorado River Water Order – On January 3, Metropolitan received its initial approval for delivery of Colorado River water from the Bureau of Reclamation. The initial approval, which is based on the Bureau’s initial assumptions regarding water use by California’s agricultural agencies, is 534,000 acre-feet. It is anticipated, however, that by the end of the year Metropolitan will receive about 750,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water in 2005. This total includes 2,000 acre-feet to be delivered for Tijuana, 30,000 acre-feet to be exchanged with the San Diego County Water Authority, 81,940 acre-feet from Metropolitan’s conservation program with Imperial Irrigation District and between 75,000 and 100,000 acre-feet from Metropolitan’s water supply program with the Palo Verde Irrigation District.

Conservation

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Conservation Rebate Program – Following Board approval last September, Metropolitan executed a five-year, \$20 million contract with Honeywell DMC beginning January 1, 2005, for rebate administration and marketing services to retrofit commercial water-using devices with more efficient models. This new agreement targets 17,500 rebates annually and replaces the three-year pilot program agreement, under which 41,000 rebates will save about 41,500 acre-feet over the life of the devices. About 85 percent of total program funding would be used for rebates and 15 percent for program administration.

Staff is currently working with Honeywell and the member agencies to develop a marketing plan that includes web-based marketing materials and an application. Additionally, a new CII master agreement for member agency participation is being finalized.

Water Conservation Master Agreement Addendum – Metropolitan issued an addendum to its master water conservation funding agreement with member agencies to include increased incentives for high-efficiency clothes washers, member agency allocation of weather-based irrigation controller funding under Proposition 13, and upgrades to the Landscape Water Efficiency Program. These improvements would sustain momentum of residential clothes washer retrofits with devices that save more water, share grant funds for weather-based irrigation controller installations among member agencies, and target potentially significant water savings in large landscapes through established water budgets, irrigation system improvements and weather-based irrigation controllers.

Local Resources Program Performance – In response to the General Auditor's report on LRP performance, staff reached an agreement with the City of Glendale to reflect more realistic production targets for the Glendale Water Reclamation Expansion Project. The contract limit was changed from 600 to 500 acre-feet per year. To date, this brings the total reduction in Metropolitan's commitment to four LRP local resource projects to 1,600 acre-feet per year. These adjustments improve clarity to our Integrated Resources Plan implementation, with more accurate planning by all parties. Staff will keep the Board informed as further efforts in this area are completed.