

• Water Resource Management February 2005 Activity Report

Summary

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

Detailed Report

Planning

Delta Seismic Risk Workshop – Staff participated in the California Department of Water Resources’ Initial Delta Seismic Risk Analysis Economic Consequence Workshop, held on February 8-9, 2005. Staff provided input toward a preliminary assessment of the economic risk of water shortages associated with a major seismic event occurring in the Bay-Delta. The initial assessment of risk was limited to residential shortage cost and to impacts on commercial, industrial, and agricultural production. Staff participation ensured that Metropolitan’s service area was accurately represented in the initial exercise, and ensures inclusion in future efforts on this topic.

System Overview – Staff is currently conducting meetings with the Member Agencies to discuss the System Overview Study Update. There are six meetings scheduled, and staff has held four meetings as of February 25, 2005. The purpose of these meetings is to update the Member Agencies on the policies that guide development of facilities, review demographics and projections with the specific agencies, show the preliminary findings of the study, and receive comments. Member Agency staff provided a number of comments on the Study, and Metropolitan staff will address these comments and include them in future correspondence with executive staff and the Board of Directors. One consistent message from the initial meetings has been a concern with managing daily and weekly peak demands at treatment plants and the potential impact that peaking could have on future rates.

State Water Project

Lake Perris Notice of Preparation – Metropolitan has reached a tentative agreement with the State Department of Parks and Recreation and State Department of Water Resources that would designate Metropolitan as the lead agency for the Lake Perris Flexible Storage Program (Program). This Program is a continuation of a broad effort to ensure access to storage at Lake Perris. The Program was approved by the Board in July 2004 and consists of two projects. The first project seeks to reduce pathogen risks associated with body-contact water-related recreation. The second project seeks to eliminate the formation of taste and odor-causing compounds formed in the lower elevations of the lake during late spring to early fall when the dissolved oxygen level normally drops to zero. In early March, Metropolitan plans to issue a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Lake Perris Flexible Storage Program.

Colorado River

Palo Verde Irrigation District Fallowing Program - As of mid-February, nearly 40 percent of the 24,000 acres participating in the Program has been sent to escrow to establish the Program’s fallowing easements. To facilitate participants fallowing during the sign-up processing, Metropolitan has offered landowners an Interim Fallowing Agreement. Under these agreements landowners would be compensated at the agreed land maintenance rate found in their long-term agreements for the early fallowing of their lands. These agreements will contribute toward the project producing a targeted water savings of 85,000 acre-feet in calendar year 2005.

Conservation

California Friendly Model Home Pilot Rebate Program – To advance water efficiency objectives outlined in the Chief Executive Officer’s Business Plan for new home construction in Southern California, Inland Empire Utilities Agency delivered the first California Friendly model homes under the pilot rebate program co-sponsored by Metropolitan and the US Bureau of Reclamation. Staff assisted in disseminating program information to the media in advance of Lewis Homes’ open house for its new master planned community, The Preserve in Chino.

The development features several major homebuilders committed to the California Friendly approach to water-use efficiency. Model homes feature California Friendly landscapes, weather-based irrigation controllers, high-efficiency clothes washers and high-efficiency toilets. Collectively, these features are expected to yield 30 percent water savings relative to conventional model homes.

Procurement of Protector Del Agua Instructors – Consistent with business plan objectives for achieving landscape irrigation efficiency, Metropolitan executed agreements with five vendors selected through a competitive request for proposal process to provide classes targeting landscape professionals and residential homeowners. Related vendor services include classroom instruction, technical advice, curriculum development, train the trainer instruction, and external affairs support. Educating residential and professional irrigators remains critical to achieving efficiency improvements identified in the Integrated Resources Plan Update.

Synthetic Turf Program – In response to the competitive Request for Proposals issued in December 2004 to promote installation of synthetic turf on municipal and public lands, 12 proposals were received before the February 11, 2005 application deadline. Funding requests totaled more than \$550,000 or roughly 2-to-1 ratio of requested funds to the program budget of \$261,000. The next step is to convene the review committee to evaluate proposals. This innovative program is co-sponsored by Metropolitan and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

Regional Resources

San Juan Basin Desalter – In partnership with Metropolitan under the Local Resources Program, the City of San Juan Capistrano dedicated its San Juan Basin Desalter Project on February 17, 2005. The 4,800 acre-foot per year project commenced operation in December 2004 and will increase regional supply reliability by reducing dependency on imported water. Metropolitan will contribute up to \$250 per acre-foot for 20 years under an existing Local Resources Program contract. The Desalter Project was the second under the LRP using a design-build-operate procurement approach.