

• Water Resource Management April 2005 Activity Report

Summary

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

Detailed Report

Planning

System Overview Study – Staff completed its scheduled outreach meetings with the Member Agencies regarding preliminary findings, assumptions, and process for completion. At these meetings, staff gathered comments on a number of issues including policy issues that will be presented to the Board. Staff is developing policy review papers to address these issues, which would include discussions of options and cost estimates, and will present an oral report to the Board in July 2005. Some of the issues identified include peak demands, online dates, and system redundancy and reliability.

Staff also made additional presentations upon request to the San Diego County Water Authority member agencies, the Eastern Municipal Water District Board, and the Western Municipal Water District Board.

At the request of some Member Agencies, staff added a 60-day review period to the schedule to ensure additional Member Agency input on local supplies would be included in the report. With the refined schedule, the draft System Overview Study Report will be presented to the Board in September 2005 and the final report will be presented for Board consideration in November 2005.

California Water Plan Update - DWR released its California Water Plan Update (Bulletin 160-2005), public review draft, by placing it on the Web on April 15, 2005. Printed copies will be available in May by request. The public review period extends through June 30. Public meetings will be scheduled throughout the state in June. For the South Coast Region, the Southern California Water Dialogue Group will host the public hearing, tentatively scheduled on June 22 at Metropolitan's Union Station headquarters. Staff will review the draft report and coordinate with the member agencies regarding comments to DWR and participate in the public hearing.

This Water Plan Update focuses on two "initiatives:" (1) Continue recent progress in implementing integrated regional water management, which includes fostering regional partnerships, developing integrated regional water management plans, and diversifying regional water portfolios; and (2) Maintain and improve statewide water management systems, which include maintaining aging facilities, implementing the CALFED program, improving flood management, and sustaining the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Groundwater Conjunctive Use - Staff continues to work with partnering member agencies to implement six approved groundwater storage agreements utilizing Proposition 13 funds. Construction of capital facilities is nearing completion on the Long Beach program, with design and construction underway on the others. Two additional agreements, short-listed in 2004, are being prepared for Board consideration and authorization to execute. Additionally, discussions and analysis are proceeding on a proposed storage program with Pasadena and Foothill Municipal Water District in the Raymond Basin. Staff is scheduled to provide an oral status update of the conjunctive use program implementation and related issues within the Metropolitan service area at the June 2005 meeting of the Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee.

State Water Project

Lake Perris – A CALFED science panel reviewed Metropolitan's draft proposal to reduce the public health risks of swimming in Lake Perris. The panel concluded, "microbial risks in water from Lake Perris delivered to consumers could be reduced if swimming activities were entirely separated from the rest of the lake." This determination is key toward obtaining state funding to implement a solution. Staff will be developing a detailed project description for inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Report to analyze alternative solutions.

California Energy Commission - Staff participated in the California Energy Commission's second workshop regarding the demands water supply systems place on the State's energy resources. CEC is focusing on the

water/energy relationship in preparing its 2005 Integrated Energy Resources Report for California. The interest in water systems was prompted by a recent publication entitled "Energy Down the Drain" authored by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Staff provided an in-depth description of Metropolitan's energy consumption, generation, and efficiency efforts; our water delivery practices; and our demand management programs in conservation, water recycling and desalination. Staff expressed an interest to explore partnerships with energy utilities in activities that would conserve both water and energy.

Monterey Amendment Environmental Impact Report - Consistent with Metropolitan's business plan objectives for the State Water Project, staff continues to participate in a group that advises DWR on preparation of a new EIR for the Monterey Amendment. The advisory group was created as part of the legal settlement after the Planning and Conservation League and other plaintiffs successfully challenged the original EIR. The advisory group's membership consists of both plaintiffs and water contractor representatives. Recently, the State Water Contractors supplemented the contractor's team with additional staff and legal resources to help deal with the growth inducement analysis in the EIR and other issues being raised by the plaintiffs. The current schedule calls for release of the draft EIR in late 2005 and the final in the spring of 2006.

Colorado River

Palo Verde Irrigation District Following Program - Consistent with the business plan, processing of long-term landowner agreements to implement the Program accomplished a key milestone when escrow closed in April on the first agreements. This action established Metropolitan's following easements and the associated initial signup payments were made to the involved landowners. Meanwhile, processing of the interim following program that extends from January 1 through July 31, 2005 continued with the first payments made to landowners in early April. The interim program will contribute towards the project producing a targeted water savings of about 85,000 acre-feet in calendar year 2005.

Conservation

Five-Year Conservation Strategy Plan - Staff convened a task force of member agencies to work on the implementation of Year One of the Five-Year Conservation Strategy Plan reviewed with the Board at its March 2005 meeting. Recommendations from that workgroup will go to the Board in July 2005. A recommendation from staff based on the task force efforts is planned for the December 2005 Board meeting.

Review of Conservation Incentive Approach - Consistent with the action items identified in Metropolitan's Five-Year Conservation Strategy plan, Metropolitan staff provided a proposed approach to evaluating the water conservation incentive level at the Member Agency manager's meeting in April. A workshop with the Member Agencies to define the scope of the review, including identification of key policy and application questions, is scheduled for June. A recommendation from staff, based on the efforts with the Member Agencies, is planned for the December 2005 Board meeting.

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