

- **Board of Directors**
Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee

September 13, 2005 Board Meeting

9-5

Subject

Update of the Regional Urban Water Management Plan

Description

Staff is currently updating Metropolitan's Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP). The Urban Water Management Planning Act (Act) of the California Water Code requires urban water suppliers, with either 3,000 connections or 3,000 acre-feet of annual deliveries, to submit a plan once every five years. The plans are required to contain a detailed evaluation of the supplies necessary to meet demands over at least a 20-year period in both normal and dry years. Copies of the draft RUWMP have been distributed to the member agencies and are available for Directors through the Executive Secretary's office. Highlights of the draft RUWMP include:

- Lower projected long-term retail demands than those shown in Metropolitan's IRP update based on updated population and employment projections and regional land use plans.
- Metropolitan's ability to demonstrate long-term reliability consistent with the requirements of the Act as a result of Metropolitan's current and planned investments to meet the IRP's resource targets.
- Ability of member agencies performing "water supply assessments" and "water supply verifications" under the requirements of SB 610 and SB 221 would be provided with Metropolitan's RUWMP to assist in their demonstration of adequate available supplies.

Local Supply and Conservation Coordination with Member Agencies

Metropolitan began coordinating with the member agencies on the update of the RUWMP in September 2004, when a kickoff meeting was held to: (1) distribute an initial data set of local supplies, conservation and demographics for each agency and (2) to discuss the coordination of the development of Metropolitan's RUWMP with the development of the member agencies respective plans. From October 2004 through March 2005, staff met with individual member agencies to update the initial data set. In May 2005, Metropolitan distributed a draft RUWMP to the member agencies for their review. After a period to review the draft, staff held a series of seven workshops, hosted by the member agencies and open to non-member retail water agencies, to discuss the plan's contents. At the workshops, Metropolitan staff reviewed changes to the Act, discussed key assumptions, and highlighted those sections that will assist the member agencies in preparing their urban water management plans. In total, representatives from over 40 member and retail agencies attended the workshops and staff has incorporated appropriate comments from the attendees into the current draft plan. In addition, staff has coordinated with the member agencies regarding the new notification and data exchange requirements under the Act.

Updated Demographics

The demographics and resulting retail demand projections included in the initial data set and refined over the last year are an update of the figures used in the IRP Update. The updated data is based on the growth projections from the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) 2004 Regional Transportation Plan and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2030 Forecast. The plans and forecasts adopted by SCAG and SANDAG are supported by EIR/EIS documentation. As stated above, lower projections of population and employment resulted in lower projected long-term retail demands than those shown in Metropolitan's IRP Update.

Changes to the Urban Water Management Plan Act

Since the last update in 2000 there have been a number of legislative changes to the Act. All new requirements have been incorporated into the draft plan. These changes include:

Water supply assessments and verifications — allows water service providers performing “water supply assessments” and “water supply verifications” under the requirements of SB 610 and SB 221, respectively, to rely on an Urban Water Management Plan to demonstrate the adequacy of available supplies.

Data Exchange — requires: (1) urban water suppliers that rely upon a wholesale agency for water to provide the wholesale agency with water use projections from that agency for the period covered by the plan and (2) wholesale agency to provide information to the urban water supplier regarding the existing and planned sources of water available from the wholesale agency to the urban water supplier over the same period.

Notification — requires urban water suppliers to notify all cities and counties within the service area that a plan or plan amendment is being prepared.

Remaining Schedule

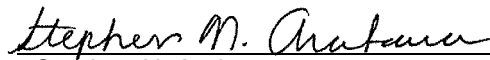
A public hearing will be held in October at the Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee meeting at which members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft plan. Staff will incorporate appropriate comments and return to the Board for adoption of the RUWMP at the November board meeting. After adoption, the RUWMP will be filed with the Department of Water Resources by December 31, 2005.

Policy

Metropolitan is obligated under law to meet the requirements of the Act, California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.6, Urban Water Management Planning.

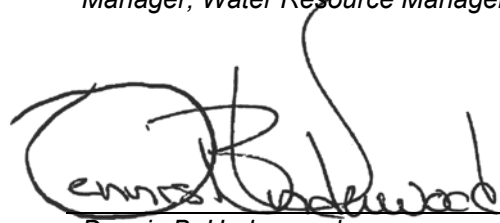
Fiscal Impact

None



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resource Management

8/22/2005
Date



Dennis B. Underwood
CEO/General Manager

8/24/2005
Date