

- **Board of Directors**
Education and Outreach Committee

October 11, 2005 Board Meeting

7-1

Subject

Approve Community Partnering Program sponsorships for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005/06

Description

Formed in 1999, the Community Partnering Program (CPP) sponsors nonprofit organization programs and activities that educate and raise public awareness about good water stewardship in such areas as conservation, water reliability and water quality protection. In fiscal year 2004/05 the CPP sponsored 97 water-related programs that included, for example, a groundwater/water cycle exhibit for the public outreach program of the city of Chino Hills; a student driven water quality restoration project of the Pacoima Wash; an exhibit on the water history and development of Pasadena and the Western San Gabriel Valley; the development of a regional outdoor water resources educational curriculum for 4th through 6th graders; a water resources education school program for the San Diego Natural History Museum; and the development of water conservation courses for a non-English speaking farming community.

A thorough review process is used to select the most valuable programs throughout Metropolitan's service area and occasionally outside the region, and to ensure their compatibility with Metropolitan's mission. All recommended projects over \$3,000 are submitted to the Board for approval prior to funding. CPP staff tracks funded projects from the start through program completion. The established tracking system includes follow-up calls, site visits, and when necessary, a request for return of funds if the program was put on hold or other co-sponsors cancelled. A recipient Evaluation Report completes the auditing requirements.

The CPP was restructured earlier this year to improve timeliness in the award of funds to approved applicants. Instead of an annual cycle, in which some applicants could wait up to ten months before final action on their application, the new process accepts applications year-round. Review panels and board approval will be scheduled quarterly. This letter presents three recommended CPP sponsorships (over \$3,000) for board consideration and approval, as listed in [Attachment 1](#). The listed recommendations include applications received during June, July and mid-August 2005.

Beginning with the December board meeting, staff will submit a standard quarterly letter for board consideration of CPP applications over \$3,000 that have been reviewed and recommended for funding. This will promote a more timely distribution of sponsorship funds throughout the year. Each subsequent attachment will list all CPP sponsorships approved previously during the fiscal year, as a reference.

For fiscal year 2005/06, the budgeted CPP amount of \$650,000 includes funding for all approved CPP applicants and for the anticipated Water Education Partnering Program.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11203: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific

project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and approve Community Partnering Program sponsorships for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005/06, for discretionary community activities as listed in [Attachment 1](#)

Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$650,000 for FY 2005/06

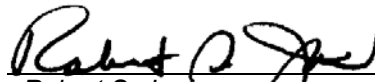
Option #2

Reject some or all of the Community Partnering Program sponsorships for first quarter fiscal year 2005/06.

Fiscal Impact: None


Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Robert S. Joe
Manager, External Affairs

9/19/2005
Date



Dennis B. Underwood
CEO/General Manager

9/20/2005
Date

Attachment 1 – Community Partnering Program

BLA #3901

Community Partnering Program

APPLICANT NAME	PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	RECOMMENDED FUNDING AMT.
P.O.W.E.R. - Public Officials for Water & Environmental Reform	California Water Policy Conference, in Holywood/CA - Nov. 17-18, 2005	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Sacramento River Watershed Program	Airtime for educational television campaign (News 10) on watershed/native plants to more than one million households (16-county viewing area) in the Sacramento community.	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000
The Chronicles Group	Curriculum development for a middle school supplement of "Running Dry," a documentary on global water storages and watershed solutions. Completed project will include lessons and activities on environmental science and conservation, a service learning component and interactive Web site called <i>Water for Kids</i> .	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
TOTAL		\$ 42,500	\$ 32,500