

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

May 16, 2006 Board Meeting

7-6

Subject

Adopt resolution supporting Metropolitan's proposal for \$300,000 grant funding for weather-based irrigation controllers under the 2006 CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants Program

Description

This letter seeks board resolution to support Metropolitan's grant proposal to implement a water conservation project for weather-based irrigation controllers. Federal funds totaling about \$2.4 million are available through the United States Bureau of Reclamation's CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants Program to encourage water conservation and water use efficiency in agricultural and urban areas. Submittal of the grant proposal and implementation of this project would contribute to water conservation savings in the landscape sector, consistent with resource targets outlined in Metropolitan's Integrated Resource Plan and pursuit of outside funding opportunities targeted in the five-year water conservation strategy plan.

CALFED program guidelines require inclusion of board resolutions supporting grant proposals as a prerequisite for consideration. The deadline to submit proposals is May 30, 2006. If selected, staff would return to the Board for a separate resolution accepting grant funds.

Presently, staff is implementing a weather-based irrigation controller project with member agencies using Metropolitan incentives and \$1.8 million in Prop. 13 grant funding from the Urban Water Conservation Program of the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act. Metropolitan and its member agencies are making recent progress by employing innovative approaches to increase the number of retrofits.

Metropolitan's \$300,000 CALFED funding proposal would sustain program momentum beyond April 2007, when Prop. 13 grant funds are projected to be exhausted. CALFED funding would supplement Metropolitan's authorized \$80 per unit incentive and retrofit about 1,500 additional units with new, self-adjusting irrigation timers in residential settings. The total project cost is estimated at \$450,000, of which USBR's contribution would be about \$300,000 for incentives, analyses and reporting, and project administration costs.

Policy

By Minute Item 44974, dated August 20, 2002, the Board authorized incentives for retrofit installation of evapotranspiration controllers in residential landscapes.

By Minute Item 46486, dated December 2005, the Board authorized conservation incentive level updates and program refinements from Metropolitan's Five-Year Conservation Strategy Plan.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Staff Recommendation:

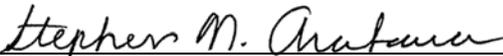
The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding, design, and installation of equipment within existing public or private facilities along with the construction of minor appurtenant structures with negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Class 1 and Class 3 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301 and 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under two Categorical Exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 3, Section 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Staff Recommendation

Adopt the CEQA determination and resolution supporting Metropolitan's proposal for weather-based irrigation controller program implementation using USBR CALFED grant funds ([Attachment 1](#)).

Fiscal Impact: None



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resource Management

4/18/2006
Date



Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

4/21/2006
Date

Attachment 1 – Resolution for the Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Grant

BLA #4485