

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

May 16, 2006 Board Meeting

7-7

Subject

Approve increased dues for continuing membership in the Association of California Water Agencies, the AWWA Research Foundation, and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Description

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department head to join organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan, provided that new memberships with annual dues of \$3,000 or more must be approved by the Board. Existing memberships must be brought back to the Board for approval, if (a) annual dues increase by 10 percent, or (b) the increase amounts to \$3,000 or more. Three organizations in which Metropolitan currently has a membership require board approval for increased dues exceeding these thresholds.

INCREASED MEMBERSHIPS:

- **Association of California Water Agencies**
Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is the largest and oldest coalition of water agencies. ACWA provides a forum for exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge to support or oppose legislation, both at federal and state levels. ACWA's dues are calculated based on an organization's operation and maintenance expenses as reported to the State Controller's office. Because Metropolitan's operation and maintenance costs increased, ACWA's dues increased to \$21,794, a 21 percent increase (\$3,812) over the FY 2004/05 dues of \$17,982.
- **AWWA Research Foundation**
AWWA Research Foundation (AWWARF) is a nonprofit corporation that was established in 1966 to promote, coordinate, and finance applied research in the operation and management of public water supply. Applied research topics funded by AWWARF address key problems identified by the water industry, and provide essential information for impacting the development of drinking water regulations. The dues of \$466,000 represent a 2.4 percent increase (\$11,000) over the FY 2004/05 dues of \$455,000.
- **Western Electricity Coordinating Council (California Independent System Operator Portion)**
Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) is responsible for the reliability of the interconnected electric transmission network in the western United States and Canada, and a portion of northern Mexico. WECC is part of a nationwide system of reliability councils created after the New York Blackout of 1965. Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct electric transmission system is part of the WECC network. A portion of the 2006 WECC dues are collected by the California Independent System Operator (ISO) who assesses WECC member systems within its control area based on their share of 2004 load consumption. Due to an increase in the amount of WECC dues to be collected by the ISO from California entities, Metropolitan's WECC-ISO dues increased. The ISO assessed dues of \$29,083 are a 56 percent increase (\$10,469) over the FY 2004/05 dues of \$18,614, but only a 3 percent increase over the FY 2003/04 dues of \$28,135.

The General Manager has reviewed the above-listed membership and recommends that the Board of Directors authorize payment of the dues indicated for these organizations.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11202: Payment of Dues
Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11203: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Options #1 and #2:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding of memberships that may result in the minor modifications to existing public facilities or operating practices, along with the implementation of educational and training programs, with negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, the proposed action consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which does not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Classes 1, 6, and 22 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15306, and 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under three Categorical Exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301; Class 6, Section 15306; and Class 22, Section 15322 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

Board Options/Fiscal Impacts

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the General Manager to pay the increased membership dues/assessments for ACWA, AWWARF, and WECC.

Fiscal Impact: Total of new membership dues/assessments for all three organizations would be \$516,877 – a combined increase of \$25,281

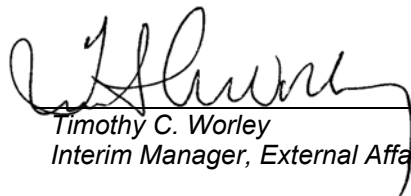
Option #2

Discontinue membership in one or more of these organizations

Fiscal Impact: Budget savings equal to the cost of membership(s) cancelled

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Timothy C. Worley
Interim Manager, External Affairs

4/19/2006
Date



Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

4/21/2006
Date