

- Water Resource Management May 2006 Activity Report

Summary

The following is a summary of Water Resource Management Group key activities for the month of May 2006.

Detailed Report

State Water Project Contract Administration

Kern River Floodwater Introduced into California Aqueduct - In late April, the Department of Water Resources notified the State Water Project (SWP) Contractors that high runoff in the eastern Sierra is resulting in floodwaters entering the California Aqueduct through a facility known as the Kern River Intertie. The Intertie is a flood control facility constructed in 1977 that has been operated infrequently over the years (1983, 1997 and 1998) under agreements with DWR. This year's operation, which began on May 4 and may continue through June, will lower SWP salinity levels, and may affect other water quality parameters and energy costs. Staff is working closely with DWR and other agencies to monitor water quality changes and to avoid adverse impacts.

Lake Perris Pollution Prevention and Source Protection Program - The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) recently notified Metropolitan that it is terminating two Proposition 13 grants for Lake Perris water quality improvements prior to the funding being expended and the work being completed. Preliminary discussions with SWRCB staff indicate that the basis for this decision is related to recent seismic deficiencies of Lake Perris dam. Staff is attempting to obtain clarity on the specific reasons for the termination. To date, Metropolitan has spent about 15 percent of the combined grant total of \$4.4 million.

Because of the need to improve water quality at Lake Perris to ensure access to stored water, even during the interim storage condition, staff is developing a strategy and action plan to move forward with these projects. Staff will return to the Board in July to request authorization to proceed with recommended project elements.

Conservation

Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Program - In partnership with Foothill Municipal Water District and Armstrong's Garden Center, Metropolitan distributed 165 weather-based irrigation controllers to La Crescenta, La Canada Flintridge and Altadena residents. Past performance studies found that these devices, with an estimated 10-year life, save about 13,500 gallons per year per location.

Foothill customers were required to provide a copy of their water bill, turn in their old controllers, and attend a brief installation and programming workshop prior to receiving their new units. This successful event used a centralized, toll-free telephone reservations system to improve customer service based on experience learned from past large distribution events. This pilot event allowed staff to confirm the effectiveness of new distribution approaches, overcome perceived marketing obstacles, and gauge the public's willingness to retrofit with more efficient, state-of-the-art models. Co-funding was provided by Proposition 13 grants administered by DWR.

Enhanced Conservation Program - Application instructions for Metropolitan's new Enhanced Conservation Program were released to the public in May. The program provides funding to develop cost-effective water conservation projects that pilot new creative program approaches to urban water conservation and increase participation in water efficiency measures leading to additional regional water savings. It is anticipated that successful projects would provide a path towards new, progressive approaches to water conservation in Southern California.

Proposals are due by June 30, 2006, and are open to both public and private water utilities and require the support of a Metropolitan member agency for consideration. A review committee will evaluate proposals and the final selection is anticipated by August 31, 2006. Projects would be selected on a competitive basis and be eligible for incentives up to \$250 per acre-foot. Staff will subsequently report program results to the Board.

Board Report (Water Resource Management May 2006 Activity Report)

Resource and Facility Planning

Integrated Area Study - May 2006 Integrated Area Study meetings for the Central Pool and the Riverside/San Diego areas were canceled. Metropolitan staff continues to gather information from the member agencies with regard to demographics and local projects. Metropolitan staff held meetings with staff from the member agencies to discuss and resolve system operational questions. These meetings were to refine understanding of the integration between Metropolitan and its member agencies. Staff determined that the information from these meetings resulted in the need for additional time to analyze and complete the system analysis models. It is anticipated that the Integrated Area Study meetings will resume in June.

Integrated Regional Water Management Plans - Staff participated in the May 1 stakeholder workshop for the development of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP). At the request of several member agencies, staff attends the monthly leadership committee as a non-voting member to give Metropolitan's perspective. Staff also provided IRP data and comments to the draft interim Greater LAC IRWMP. The draft interim Greater LAC IRWMP is the support document for Proposition 50 implementation grant applications, which are due in June 2006. The final Greater LAC IRWMP is scheduled for completion in December 2006 and will be the support document for future grant applications for Proposition 50 funds or future water bonds. In addition, staff is continuing coordination with other member agency groups on matters of regional water supply planning.