

- Water Resource Management June 2006 Activity Report

Summary

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

Detailed Report

State Water Project Contract Administration

SWP Sanitary Survey - A significant milestone was reached in June when DWR agreed to allow the State Water Project Contractors Joint Powers Authority (SWPCA) to conduct the Sanitary Survey for the State Water Project. This action represented the first time that the DWR contracted with the SWPCA to provide supplemental services. The SWPCA will manage a consulting team, with DWR's oversight, to make sure that the specialized water quality studies are completed and meet SWP contractor needs. The SWPCA was formed in 2003 with the intent of providing supplemental services to assist DWR in the management and operation of the SWP.

East Branch Enlargement - Metropolitan is working with California Energy Commission staff to secure grant funding to investigate energy efficiency opportunities on the East Branch of the State Water Project. The Commission approved the preliminary grant proposal and work has begun to submit a final proposal and develop a grant agreement. The East Branch Enlargement Project Committee - consisting of Metropolitan and seven other SWP contractors formed under the State Water Project Contractors Authority - would receive the grant and conduct the studies. The Committee's objective is to determine the feasibility of incorporating energy efficiency measures into the ongoing plans to increase water conveyance capacity of the East Branch.

Local Resources

Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force - The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has asked Metropolitan to participate in a Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force. The Task Force, which will be chaired by the Department of Public Works, is being convened at the direction of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The goal of the Task Force will be "...to make recommendations for a broader Countywide policy for the expanded use of recycled water for non-potable purposes..." The first meeting of the Task Force, which staff attended, was held on June 28th. Staff will continue to report to the Board as the Task Force completes its 180-day assignment. Staff will also look for other opportunities and partnerships to advance recycled water use within Metropolitan's service area.

Conservation

Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Program – Metropolitan and four member agencies – Foothill Municipal Water District and the cities of Glendale, Pasadena, and Burbank – distributed 435 weather-based irrigation controllers during a one-day exchange event at Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge. At the exchange event, participants provided a copy of their water bill and exchanged their old controllers for new, high efficiency models. This event was organized to test the viability of training residents by providing them with a DVD on installation and programming. If proven successful, use of the DVD will reduce costs compared to on-site instructor training, which has been used at prior distribution events.

Metropolitan also partnered with Three Valleys Municipal Water District on another event to provide training and distributed about 100 units to residents. Co-funding for both events was provided by a Proposition 13 grant administered by the California Department of Water Resources.

Desalination

Long Beach Pilot Plant Startup - The Long Beach Seawater Desalination Research and Development Facility commenced operations in June following successful tests of all systems. The 300,000 gallon-per-day facility is funded in part by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Major research conducted at this facility over the next two years will focus on evaluating energy requirements of seawater desalination and product water quality.

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Side-by-side comparisons will be made of alternative treatment processes including conventional reverse osmosis and dual-pass nanofiltration. The pilot facility takes seawater from an open channel that supplies cooling water to the City of Los Angeles' Haynes Generating Station. After testing, product water and brine are discharged to the open channel.

Proposition 50 Desalination Grant Recommendations - On June 12, 2006, the Department of Water Resources announced the preliminary list of projects recommended to receive Proposition 50 grants for seawater and brackish water construction, feasibility study, pilot and demonstration, and research and development. The preliminary recommendation includes roughly \$4.5 million for seawater desalination and \$4.3 million for brackish groundwater desalination in Metropolitan's service area. Metropolitan submitted letters on behalf of all Proposition 50 grant applicants in its service area that requested support. Staff will provide an update after DWR publishes the final project list.

Water Storage, Transfers & Exchange

Arvin-Edison/Metropolitan Water Management Program – For the past six months, staff has been meeting with Arvin-Edison Water Storage District representatives to explore improvements to the Arvin-Edison/Metropolitan Water Management Program. These discussions have focused on expanding Arvin-Edison's South Canal using Proposition 13 grant monies Metropolitan secured for implementing partnerships with San Joaquin Valley agricultural districts to improve the quality of water Metropolitan receives via the California Aqueduct. Expanding the South Canal increases Arvin-Edison's capability to return high quality groundwater to Metropolitan during periods of lower quality supplies in the California Aqueduct. As part of these discussions, staff requested and received a 2006 storage proposal from Arvin-Edison that reduced Metropolitan's upfront Program costs to store water. At this time, staff and Arvin-Edison are discussing terms that would provide a low cost storage alternative for Metropolitan and decrease Arvin-Edison's groundwater pumping requirements in 2006.

Resource and Facility Planning

IRP Implementation Report - WRM staff has begun compiling information for the annual IRP Implementation Report (2006). As the fiscal year closes, staff will gather data for the program and resource areas outlined in Metropolitan's IRP and will conduct analyses to determine what changes and development occurred toward meeting IRP Resource Targets. Current plans are to finalize the Report and transmit it to the Board in September 2006.

Integrated Area Studies - At the June Central Pool Area Study meeting, Metropolitan staff discussed a number of refinements to the facilities planning models and assumptions. These refinements are results of working closely with Water System Operations Group and the City of Los Angeles to more accurately model current and predicted future operations. The combined effects of these adjustments would significantly reduce the demand for treated water and delay the timing and need for facilities in the Central Pool area. Staff is currently examining the assumptions and models for the Riverside/San Diego area also.

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board proposal to regulate recharge of imported water - The SARWQCB issued its tentative order to regulate the recharge of imported water in April 2006. A workshop was held at the SARWQCB's Board meeting in May 2006. At that time, the Regional Board agreed to work with the water supply community to develop an alternate approach to addressing salinity management in the Santa Ana Region. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) was asked to facilitate a workgroup process among the Regional Board staff and water supply interests. SAWPA held its first workgroup meeting on June 12, 2006. The meeting focused on initial discussions to organize the workgroup process and addressed participation and scope of the effort. No definite agreement was reached on these items at the meeting. The second workgroup meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2006 at 9 a.m. Metropolitan is facilitating discussions among the member agencies and has scheduled a conference call for June 28, 2006 to discuss strategy for the upcoming workgroup meeting.