- **Board of Directors**
  Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

April 10, 2007 Board Meeting

9-2

Subject

Review of Water Conservation Program

Description

This is the eighth report on programs and implementation policies affecting water supply development by Metropolitan. Staff was directed to prepare these reports at the September 2006 meeting of the Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee.

Introduction

Conservation is a core element of Metropolitan's plans for reliably meeting demand and a basic outcome of Metropolitan's water stewardship responsibilities. Between fiscal year 1990/91 and fiscal year 2005/06, Metropolitan invested approximately $181 million in water-conserving devices, yielding a cumulative total of about 943,000 acre-feet of conserved water. This report provides an overview of the policies and major components of Metropolitan's current Conservation Program.

Conservation and the Integrated Water Resources Plan

The 1996 Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP) established water conservation as a core water resource by adopting specific conservation targets along with more traditional supplies such as imported water. In doing so, the 1996 IRP explicitly recognized four distinct "types" of conservation: *active conservation,* resulting from programs and devices funded by Metropolitan and its member agencies; *code-based conservation,* resulting from the adoption of plumbing codes requiring the increased efficiency of water-using devices like toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators; *price effects*, or consumer-initiated reductions in water use due to rate increases; and *pre-1990 savings,* consisting of water savings realized prior to 1990 through a combination of plumbing codes and price effects.[1]

The 2004 *Integrated Water Resources Plan Update* (IRP Update) revised the 1996 conservation targets to account for changing trends in population growth and economic activity; revised water savings estimates for high-efficiency plumbing fixtures; and increase in the types of available water conservation devices. As shown in Table 1, the net effect of these changes was to increase current IRP targets for conservation.

Table 1
Conservation Targets (Acre-Feet)

Source	2010	2020	2025
2004 IRP Update	865,000	1,028,000	1,107,000
1996 IRP	738,000	882,000	N/A*

*The 1996 IRP did not set resource targets for 2025.

[1] In the 1996 IRP, code-based conservation and savings due to price were both labeled "passive" conservation.

Core Conservation Programs

In 1991, the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) was created by urban water agencies and environmental groups to develop and oversee implementation of cost-effective conservation practices.[2] As a founding member of CUWCC, the conservation activities of Metropolitan and its member agencies have historically been shaped by their commitment to the CUWCC's *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU)[3] and its 14 "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) regarding water use efficiency. Over time, the 14 BMPs listed in **Attachment 1** have served as the springboard for the development and evolution of a variety of innovative approaches to urban conservation.

The Conservation Credits Program (CCP) is the principal mechanism through which Metropolitan funds active conservation programs.[4] First authorized in September 1988 and last updated in December 2005, the CCP provides financial incentives designed to encourage and to assist member agencies in implementing water-conserving programs. In addition, the CCP also provides grant funding to help refine existing "core" programs and to identify new or otherwise innovative conservation strategies. The common objective of these programs is to reduce the need for imported water.

Metropolitan funds core conservation programs on a per-unit basis—e.g., a water conserving device, an acre-foot of irrigation savings. **Attachment 2** contains a list of these accounting units and their associated funding levels. The amount of the financial incentive is based on Metropolitan's avoided cost of conveying and treating imported water. This incentive is currently $195 per acre-foot of conserved water up to the full purchase price of an approved conservation device, or up to one-half of program costs for process improvement and some landscape programs.[5] The budget for such programs is currently $15 million per year and could increase to about $21 million per year over the next five years as Metropolitan and its member agencies expand their array of water conservation programs.[6]

Metropolitan's core conservation program devices and activities fall into three broad categories—residential programs; landscape water use efficiency programs; and commercial, industrial and institutional programs. These programs and their components are described below.

Residential Programs

Residential Surveys

Among the earliest of Metropolitan's conservation efforts, the Residential Survey Program employed on-site inspectors to check homes for leaks; develop efficient irrigation schedules; install water displacement devices in toilets; and replace water-wasting showerheads and aerators with more water-efficient devices. In 1992, federal legislation restricted the sale and installation of showerheads, toilets and aerators to water-efficient models. For these reasons, and because of extensive member agency efforts in this area, public funding for replacement of these devices is no longer considered cost-effective within Metropolitan's service area. Consequently, Metropolitan funding under the Residential Survey Program focuses primarily on leak detection and water-efficient irrigation schedules.

Toilet Replacement

The retrofit of high volume toilets (3.6+ gallons per flush) with 1.6-gallon ultra-low-flush (ULF) models has long been a staple of Metropolitan's residential conservation programs. Between 1990 and 2006,

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[2] The MOU and BMPs were developed and adopted to advance conservation as part of the State Water Resources Control Board's efforts to implement new flow and export standards in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ("Bay/Delta") Estuary.

[3] First adopted December 11, 1991; last amended March 9, 2005.

[4] Metropolitan's funds are periodically supplemented by public grants and bond measures.

[5] Metropolitan also pays the administrative and marketing costs for some programs.

[6] Metropolitan board letter titled "Authorize implementation of conservation incentive level updates and program refinements from Metropolitan's Five-Year Conservation Strategy Plan," December 13, 2005.

Metropolitan and its member agencies funded the retrofit of nearly 2.5 million ULF toilets.[7] Over the average 20-year device life, these toilets will save an estimated 1.7 million acre-feet of water.

In 2005, Metropolitan began emphasizing retrofits using new, high-efficiency toilets (HETs)—toilets that use 1.3 gallons or less per flush, saving at least 20 percent more than ULF toilets. Under current plans, Metropolitan will transition to providing incentives only for HETs beginning January 1, 2009.

High-Efficiency Washers

Clothes washers closely rival toilets in terms of daily water use in the typical residential dwelling. Accordingly, the development and implementation of residential higher-efficiency clothes washer programs have received increasing attention in the water conservation community.

Between 2004 and 2006, Metropolitan provided financial incentives resulting in the purchase of roughly 166,000 residential high-efficiency washers. Additionally, in collaboration with CUWCC, Metropolitan has actively supported legislation in California to require an increase in the water use efficiency required of all clothes washers sold in the state. However, a recent decision by the federal Department of Energy nullified California's proposed water efficiency requirements for residential clothes washers. To help overcome this setback, Metropolitan continues to provide incentives intended to encourage the purchase of high-efficiency clothes washers.

Landscape Programs

Metropolitan's landscape programs provide member agencies with the flexibility of selecting, from among several options, the program that best meets the needs and characteristics of individual landscape sites.

Water Use Accountability

Under the Water Use Accountability Program, Metropolitan provides financial incentives to improve landscape water management practices via education and timely information about water consumption. To facilitate more efficient use, agencies provide property owners, managers and maintenance personnel with reports each billing cycle comparing actual water use with site-specific water-efficient budgets. Program participants also receive mandatory water management training from either Metropolitan or the member agency.

Participants in the Water Use Accountability Program receive $2.50 per acre per month for each acre under management if Metropolitan provides water management training, or $3.50 per acre per month if the agency provides the training. These payments are based on estimated water savings. The maximum term of the program is five years and the maximum payment is one-half the total program cost.

Measured Water Savings

Metropolitan provides financial incentives to property owners to upgrade landscape irrigation equipment to increase water use efficiency. The amount of the incentive equals the lesser of:

- Water savings: $195 per acre-foot over two years of projected savings for landscape surveys or over five years of projected savings for irrigation system retrofits.
- Project cost: up to one-half of survey program cost plus up to one-half of irrigation equipment system retrofit water-related costs.
- Simple payback: program cost or capital equipment cost minus two years of accumulated water bill savings.

[7] Spending and fixture numbers used in this board letter do not include devices and programs funded solely at member agency expense.

Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers

Weather-based irrigation controllers (WBICs) are a rapidly evolving technology that effectively addresses the need for increased outdoor water use efficiency. A WBIC is a "smart" irrigation controller that adjusts daily irrigation schedules based on factors like rain, temperature, sunlight, and soil moisture.

In the past two years, Metropolitan and its member agencies employed aggressive measures to distribute more than 4,000 WBICs for residential use and 1,000 WBICs for non-residential use. Current trends suggest demand for these devices could increase significantly during the coming years.

Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Programs

Commercial, Industrial and Institutional "Save-A-Buck" Program

Under the CII "Save-A-Buck" Program, commercial, industrial and institutional customers receive financial incentives equal to those associated with a set of "core" CII water efficiency components (see **Attachment 2**). The region-wide "Save-A-Buck" Program makes it easy for businesses to participate in Metropolitan's water use efficiency incentive program by using a single vendor to manage and pay rebates to qualifying customers. Member agencies have the option of managing their own program or using Metropolitan's regional vendor.

Industrial Process Improvement Program

Established in 1997, Metropolitan's Industrial Process Improvement (IPI) Program provides financial incentives to industrial customers to improve the water efficiency of their industrial processes. Because of the large amount of water used by qualifying industrial processes, the water saving resulting from a single industrial process improvement can be appreciable.

Due to program complexity and difficulty marketing to the industrial sector, participation in the IPI Program has historically been low. Attempting to increase participation, Metropolitan's Board authorized several revisions to streamline the IPI Program in 2004. These included allowing partial payment up-front; a streamlined application process; hiring an outside vendor to provide timely technical advice; and the elimination of minimum size limits for program participation. In the seven years prior to these changes, Metropolitan entered into only two IPI agreements; in the two years following the changes, Metropolitan has executed five such agreements with an additional four agreements currently under review.

New and Innovative Conservation Programs

Complementing Metropolitan's ongoing core conservation activities are a dynamic set of programs intended to increase the coverage of traditional programs, to identify new conservation opportunities, and to promote public awareness and water-conserving behavior. Programs in these areas are described below.

Enhanced Conservation

The Enhanced Conservation Program provides grants to member agencies for pilot studies intended to either develop new conservation programs or refine existing ones. Metropolitan awards funds biannually on a competitive basis in an amount budgeted at $4 million per funding cycle with incentive levels up to $250 per acre-foot of conserved water.[8] Programs and devices shown to be cost-effective and having the potential to reduce demands on Metropolitan become candidates for incorporation into the set of core conservation programs.

Innovative Conservation

The Innovative Conservation Program provides grants to both public and private entities. The purpose of these grants is to quantify water savings associated with potential new devices, technologies and systems. Promising outcomes become candidates for inclusion in the set of core conservation programs. Innovative Conservation Program awards are made on a biannual basis from a budget of $250,000 per grant cycle.

[8] The $250 per acre-foot allows for the greater risk and start-up costs of these temporary programs. If adopted as a core conservation program, the incentive rate reverts to the standard $195 per acre-foot.

California Friendly Programs

In 2006, Metropolitan and its member agencies launched a major branding effort to make it easier for customers to identify water-efficient products, programs and organizations. The objective of the California Friendly Program is to assist and to encourage consumers to select products and services that will help conserve water. While the California Friendly Program originally focused on water efficient and low maintenance plants and landscapes, the program has expanded to include newly constructed homes. Through the joint efforts of Metropolitan, the Building Industry Association of Southern California, the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation, financial incentives are available to offset the cost of equipping new homes with California Friendly landscapes and with water fixtures exceeding current plumbing codes. In response to these financial incentives, an increasing number of homebuilders are constructing model and production homes that are consistent with California Friendly specifications.

Other Conservation Activities

In addition to the programs described above, Metropolitan and its member agencies engage in a number of public information, education and outreach activities designed to increase water awareness and to promote the more efficient use of water.[9] Many of these programs and activities are described in **Attachment 3**. Of particular note are current negotiations involving potential water-energy partnerships between Metropolitan, Southern California Edison, and the Southern California Gas Company. In part, this cooperative effort would leverage the financial and other resources of these utilities to distribute water and energy conservation devices to low income and other difficult-to-reach populations.

Implementation Challenges

The main challenge in meeting the IRP targets for conservation is devising effective approaches to implementing newly identified programs. Staff is working aggressively to develop relationships with both public and private entities that yield mutually beneficial conservation programs. Other challenges include quantifying the water savings from various programs, such as WBICs and California Friendly landscaping; identifying and implementing conservation opportunities among process industries; and encouraging greater public participation in conservation programs.

In coming months staff will bring forward, for board consideration, proposed additions and revisions intended to sustain Metropolitan's aggressive water conservation efforts as part of its ongoing effort to follow a strategic plan working cooperatively with its member agencies.

Policy

By Minute Item 41734, dated January 9, 1996, the Board approved the Integrated Water Resources Plan.
By Minute Item 45841, dated July 13, 2004, the Board adopted the Integrated Water Resources Program Update.
By Minute Item 37324, dated September 1988, the Board adopted the Conservation Credits Program.
By Minute Item 45208, dated February 11, 2003, the Board adopted conservation policy principles.

[9] Many of these programs are developed, implemented or funded by External Affairs. Because of the difficulty of reliably quantifying the water savings associated with public outreach and education efforts, the IRP does not include water savings from these types of activities.

Fiscal Impact

None

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Attachment 1 – California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices

Attachment 2 – Core Conservation Program

Attachment 3 – Recent Metropolitan Activities Intended to Increase Water Awareness and Promote Water Use Efficiency

BLA #4998

California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices (BMPs)[1]

1. Water Survey Programs for Single-Family Residential and Multi-Family Residential Customers

   Develop and implement a strategy targeting and marketing water use surveys to single- and multi-family residents. These surveys shall include indoor and outdoor components. The indoor component should check for leaks including toilets, faucets and water meters; check showerhead flow rates, aerator flow rates, and offer or recommend replacement, as necessary; and check toilet flow rates, offering or recommending installation of displacement devices or directing the customer to a ULFT replacement program, as necessary; and replace leaking toilet flapper, as necessary. The outdoor component should include checking irrigation system timers and reviewing or developing irrigation schedules.

2. Residential Plumbing Retrofits

   Identify single- and multi-family residences constructed prior to 1992. Develop a targeting and marketing strategy to distribute or directly install high quality, low-flow showerheads (rated 2.5 gpm or less), toilet displacement devices (as needed), toilet flappers (as needed) and faucet aerators (rated 2.2 gpm or less).

3. System Water Audits, Leak Detection and Repair

   Complete an annual prescreening water system audit to determine the need for a full-scale system audit. When indicated, agencies shall complete water audits of their distribution systems using methodology consistent with that described in AWWA's *Water Audit and Leak Detection Guidebook.* Agencies shall advise customers whenever it appears possible that leaks exist on the customer's side of the meter; perform distribution system leak detection when warranted and cost-effective; and repair leaks when found.

4. Metering with Commodity Rates for All New Connections and Retrofit of Existing Connections

   Implementation requires the metering of all new connections and billing by volume of use. Barriers to retrofitting mixed-use commercial accounts with dedicated landscape meters are to be identified and a feasibility study is to be conducted assessing the merits of a program to provide incentives to switch mixed-use accounts to dedicated landscape meters.

5. Large Landscape Conservation Programs and Incentives

   Provide non-residential customers with support and incentives to improve their landscape water use efficiency. This support shall include, but not be limited to: assigning accounts with dedicated irrigation meters ETo-based water budgets and providing information about budgeted and actual consumption each billing cycle; and offering water use surveys to accounts without dedicated meters.

6. High-Efficiency Clothes Washing Machine Financial Incentive Programs

   Offer financial incentives, if cost effective, to encourage the purchase of high-efficiency clothes washing machines.

7. Public Information Campaigns

   Implement a public information program to promote water conservation and water conservation-related benefits. The program should include, but not be limited to, providing speakers to employees, community

[1] This section contains a highly abridged version of the BMPs. For a complete description, see the California Urban Conservation Council's *Memorandum of Understanding* at www.cuwcc.org.

groups and the media; using paid and public service advertising; using bill inserts providing information on customers' bills showing use for the last billing period compared to the same period the year before; providing public information to promote water conservation practices; and coordinating with other government agencies, industry groups, public interest groups, and the media.

8. School Education Programs

Implement a school education program to promote water conservation and water conservation related benefits. Programs shall include working with schools to provide instructional assistance, educational materials, and classroom presentations that identify urban, agricultural, and environmental issues and conditions in the local watershed.

9. Conservation Programs for Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Accounts

Identify and rank CII accounts according to water use. Implement a program to accelerate replacement of existing high-water-using toilets with ultra-low-flush (1.6 gallons or less) toilets. Implement a CII Water Use Survey and Customer Incentive Program providing on-site surveys to CII accounts. Water use surveys must include a site visit, an evaluation of all water-using apparatus and processes, and a customer report identifying recommended efficiency measures, their expected payback period and available agency incentives. Within one year of the survey, the customer is to be contacted regarding current facility water use and any water saving improvements.

10. Wholesale Agency Assistance Programs

To the extent it is cost-effective, wholesale water suppliers are to provide financial incentives, technical support and program management assistance to their retail water agency customers. Wholesale agencies shall also work in cooperation with their customers to identify and remove potential disincentives to long-term conservation created by water shortage allocation policies; and to identify opportunities to encourage and reward cost-effective investments in long-term conservation shown to advance regional water supply reliability and sufficiency.

11. Conservation Pricing

Agencies shall eliminate non-conservation pricing and adopt conservation pricing. Conservation pricing provides incentives to customers to reduce average or peak use, or both. Such pricing includes: rates designed to recover the cost of providing services; and billing for water and sewer service based on metered water use. Conservation pricing is also characterized by one or more of the following: rates in which the unit rate is constant regardless of the quantity used (uniform rates) or increases as the quantity used increases (increasing block rates); seasonal rates or excess-use surcharges to reduce peak demands during summer months; and rates based upon the long-run marginal cost or the cost of adding the next unit of capacity to the system.

12. Conservation Coordinator

A Conservation Coordinator and necessary support staff shall be appointed to coordinate and oversee conservation programs and BMP implementation; to prepare and submit the Council's BMP Implementation Report; and to promote and ensure that conservation efforts are sustained within the organization, participate in CUWCC meetings, and prepare the conservation elements of the agency's Urban Water Management Plan.

13. Water Waste Prohibition

Agencies shall enact and enforce measures prohibiting gutter flooding, single pass cooling systems in new connections, non-recirculating systems in all new conveyer car wash and commercial laundry systems, and non-recycling decorative water fountains. Agencies shall also support efforts to reduce or eliminate the adverse effects of water softeners.

14. Residential ULFT Replacement Programs

Implement programs for replacing existing high-water-using toilets with ultra-low-flush (1.6 gallons or less) toilets in singe- and multi-family residences. Programs shall be at least as effective as requiring toilet replacement at time of resale.

CORE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
$195/AF up to 100 Percent of the Cost of a Device

Device/Program	Incentive
Residential Indoor	
High-Efficiency Toilet (HET)	$165
HET Upgrade/New Construction	$30
Ultra Low Flush Toilet (ULFT)	$60 [1]
High-Efficiency Clothes Washer	$75
Single-family Survey	$12.50 [2]
Commercial, Industrial and Institutional	
High-Efficiency Toilet (HET)	$165
HET Upgrade/New Construction	$30
Ultra Low Flush Toilet (ULFT)	$135
High-Efficiency Urinal (HEU)	$200
HEU Upgrade/New Construction (Upgraded incentive)	$60
Zero Water Urinal (ZWU)	$400
ZWU Upgrade/New Construction (Upgraded incentive)	$120
High-Efficiency Clothes Washer	$130
Pre-Rinse Spray Valves	$60
Water Brooms	$150
Connectionless Food Steamers	$485/per compartment
Cooling Tower Controllers	$625
PH Cooling Tower Controllers	$1,900
Steam Sterilizer (New Incentive)	$1,900
X-Ray Recirculation	$3,120
Industrial process Improvements	$195/acre-foot [3]
Landscape	
Residential 12-Station Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC)	$80
Residential 12+ Station WBIC	$6.50 per station
Commercial & Large Residential (1+ acre) WBIC	$630/acre
Rotating Nozzles for Pop-up Spray Heads (New incentive)	$4
Water Use Accountability (WUA), MWD pays for Professional Protector Del Agua (PPDA) training	$2.50/acre [4]
WUA, agency provides PPDA training	$3.50/acre [4]
Measured Water Savings (MWS), MWD pays PPDA training	$156/acre-foot [5]
MWS, agency provides PPDA training	$195/acre-foot [5]
Irrigation Evaluation (w/o irrigation timer)	$8 [1]
Irrigation Evaluation (with irrigation timer)	$18 [1]
Landscape Survey Program (New Incentive)	$215/acre

[1] ULFT incentive remains unchanged and will expire in December 2008.
[2] Survey programs remain unchanged pending a review of estimated savings.
[3] This process water program is limited to one-half the project cost based on individual project costs.
[4] This process water is limited to one-half program cost based on prior study.
[5] For irrigation system equipment retrofits, maximum of five years of projected savings up to one half of equipment cost.

Recent Metropolitan Activities Intended to Increase Water Awareness and Promote Water Use Efficiency[1]

- **California Friendly Programs**. In 2006, Metropolitan and its member agencies launched a major branding effort to make it easier for consumers to identify water efficient products, programs and organizations. The objective is to assist and to encourage consumers to select products and services that will help conserve water. Existing components of the California Friendly Program are listed below.

  - California Friendly Outdoor Conservation Outreach Program. Since 2002 Metropolitan has funded an annual campaign to educate homeowners and business to conserve water. As of 2006, Metropolitan has spent about $6 million in advertising and educational materials designed to increase awareness of water efficient practices.

  - California Friendly Landscape Program. Metropolitan continues to explore ways to increase small business and large commercial site participation in landscape water-efficiency incentive programs. Marketing and outreach efforts continue to be refined to improve market penetration among potential program participants.

  - California Friendly Plants. In the fall of 2006, Metropolitan assembled a panel of experts to approve a list of nearly 300 water efficient, low maintenance plants. Metropolitan then partnered with Armstrong's Garden Centers, Home Depot and 57 independent garden retailers to feature these plants in stores during the fall planting season. An advertising campaign promoted the effort throughout Metropolitan's service area.

  - California Friendly Homes. Through the joint efforts of Metropolitan, the Building Industry Association of Southern California, the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation, financial incentives are available to offset the cost of equipping new homes with California Friendly landscapes and with water fixtures exceeding current plumbing codes. As a result, an increasing number of homebuilders are constructing model and production homes that are consistent with California Friendly specifications.

- **Education Programs**. During 2006, Metropolitan and its member agencies reinforced the conservation message by making educational materials, activities and events available to more than 96,000 K-12 students and 11,259 new program teachers.

- **Bewaterwise.com**. This Web site helps homeowners create and maintain a California Friendly landscape by providing a variety of tools and information such as a watering index, a water calculator, and a database of some 1,500 native and California Friendly plants. The site also provides information about current rebate programs and other water use efficiency activities and resources. Bewaterwise.com receives an average of 1,000 visitors a day.

- **World Water Forum**. Metropolitan recently completed the first cycle of its new Southern California World Water Forum Program. This competitive college grants program awarded $120,000 for research and development of water use efficiency technologies that can be implemented cost-effectively in water-stressed areas. By May 2006, 11 teams from eight educational institutions in Southern California had completed and presented projects under this program.

- **Community Partnering Program**. During its seven-year history, the Community Partnering Program (CPP) has provided more than $3.5 million in support of community efforts to increase water awareness and use efficiency. During 2006, the CPP focused on watershed education, conservation and California

[1] Some of these programs funded and administered by External Affairs.

Friendly native plant garden issues in Southern California. Comprised of nonprofit community organizations, public agencies, professional associations and educational institutions, CPP recipients were awarded funds for activities including education collaboration, policy forums and a broad range of water resource education programs.

- **California Friendly Training**. Metropolitan funds two separate series of training sessions intended to increase outdoor water use efficiency. The first series, designed for the homeowner, provides short classes on landscape design; the use of California Friendly plants; the design and maintenance of efficient residential irrigation systems; and the relationship between soil, fertilizers and watering. The Professional Series, in contrast, is designed for landscape professionals and consists of four basic courses and an optional plant class. The Professional series focuses on efficient landscape water management and plant selection and is available in both Spanish and English. Between 1994 and December 2006 there have been 43,288 participants in the set of California Friendly Training Classes.

- **California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC)**. In addition to implementing CUWCC's best management practices (BMPs), Metropolitan actively supports many of CUWCC's program activities and committees. For example, Metropolitan has historically provided staff time and financial resources to support CUWCC's ongoing efforts to document and to increase the effectiveness of BMP-related conservation activities. Additionally, Metropolitan staff participates in CUWCC's governance and in many of its technical committees.