

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

June 12, 2007 Board Meeting

7-9

Subject

Authorize continued participation in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Water Augmentation Study for watershed management and Metropolitan's contribution of \$75,000 to increase total contribution to \$275,000

Description

Metropolitan has been a participant in the Water Augmentation Study, a research study on storm water runoff measurement, since the inception of the Study in 2000. Metropolitan has contributed \$200,000 to the Study. This letter requests the authority to continue participation and contribute \$75,000 to the next phase of the Study.

Background

The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council directs the Water Augmentation Study, which is a ten-year study and demonstration project that investigates the benefits, costs, and risks of capturing storm water to augment water supply through infiltration. The Watershed Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of community groups, government agencies, business and academia working cooperatively to solve problems in the watershed. Formed in 1995, its mission is to facilitate an inclusive consensus process to preserve, restore, and enhance the economic, social, and ecological health of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed through education, research, and planning. Metropolitan also serves on the Watershed Council's board of directors.

The Study has been conducted in collaboration with participation from academia, nonprofit organizations, federal, state and local public agencies. Other Study participants include: City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division, City of Santa Monica Environmental Programs Division, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, TreePeople, University of California at Riverside, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

Since 2000, Metropolitan has contributed \$200,000 to the Study from its pilot study design to conceptual design phases. The next phase of the Study is to complete the design for retrofitting a neighborhood in Sun Valley and obtain federal and state grants to implement a project to demonstrate the beneficial use of storm water. Metropolitan proposes to continue participation as a local partner with a contribution of \$75,000 for the fiscal years 2007/08 and 2008/09. Contributions from Metropolitan and other local partners will constitute local matching funds for the demonstration project to pursue state and federal grants.

Benefits

Metropolitan, based on its IRP policy, has been establishing new and important partnerships to facilitate local resources development and management. The Study provides information for a regional strategy for managing storm and dry weather urban runoff to decrease runoff that transports pollutants to streams, coastal waters and beaches, and increase infiltration of runoff to replenish groundwater basins.

In addition, partnership with the Watershed Council provides significant benefits to Metropolitan including the Council's activities in support of water conservation (focused on California Friendly landscaping), effective relations with regional stakeholders (particularly the environmental community), reciprocal technical assistance and occasional media/public relations value. Metropolitan also derives benefits from the Council's function as

the essential forum for coordination of multi-stakeholder watershed protection, planning, and management activities.

Through participation of the Study, Metropolitan also meets its statutory mandate to consider "...programs of groundwater recharge and replenishment, watershed management, habitat restoration, and environmentally compatible community development utilizing the resource potential of the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River ... including storm water runoff from these rivers..." (from SB 60 of 1999, Water Code §130.7).

Funding

The Study is designed to progress in several phases and funding has been collected for each phase. Financial contributions to the Study by the various partners are listed in **Attachment 1**. It should be noted that contributions from the local agencies constitute local matching funds for state and federal grants received. To date, the project received \$985,000 from Proposition 13 via State Water Resources Control Board; \$971,000 from CALFED under Proposition 50 via State Department of Water Resources; \$85,000 of in-kind services from DWR for drilling and groundwater monitoring wells development; and \$1.12 million from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (including in-kind contributions of groundwater modeling).

Accomplishments

To date, at the seventh year, the Study has accomplished the following:

1. Storm water best management practices installed at six urban sites of different land uses (parks, school, residential, and industrial) with groundwater monitoring for a period of three to six years at each site.
 - Key finding: Study demonstrated that storm water infiltration would not adversely impact groundwater quality when proper best management practices are implemented on site.
2. Computer model for users to assess infiltration potential (quantity of storm water captured) based on physical characteristic of an area, land use, soil type and additional runoff capture.
3. List of best management practices and suitability based on land use and other physical constraints.
4. Valuation of stormwater infiltration as a local supply source.
5. Defined specific criteria for selection of applicable neighborhoods for retrofit.
6. Recognized and awarded the Regional Stormwater Research Project of the Year by California Stormwater Quality Association in 2006, and an Award of Excellence from POWER (Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform) in 2005.

Next Steps

The Study has progressed to the next phase to design and retrofit a neighborhood in Sun Valley, Los Angeles to demonstrate the beneficial use of storm water. The total project budget is \$2.4 million; with over \$700,000 local matching funds being pledged by the various partners. The Study is in the process of applying for \$1.7 million of federal grants under Bureau of Reclamation and state grants under Proposition 50.

With the demonstration project in place, the final steps of the Study will include a regional strategy report for implementation. This report will include a summary of findings from prior research, and will provide an assessment of suitable best management practices based on physical, economic and regulatory considerations; quantification of infiltration potential; cost-benefit analysis of infiltration; and a strategy for regional implementation of infiltration techniques to enhance local water supplies.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: Authority to enter contracts

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is statutorily exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, since it involves only a conceptual plan associated with feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions. Additionally, the proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The overall activities involve the funding, design, and minor alterations of existing public facilities, along with the installation of small new equipment and facilities with negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Also, this proposed action involves minor modifications in the condition of land and/or vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. The proposed action also involves basic data collection and resource evaluation activities that do 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, this proposed action qualifies both as a feasibility and planning studies exemption (Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines) and under Class 1, Class 3, Class 4, and Class 6 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15303, 15304, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under a Statutory Exemption and four Categorical Exemptions (Section 15262; Class 1, Section 15301; Class 3, Section 15303; Class 4, Section 15304; and Class 6, Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Authorize the continued participation in the Water Augmentation Study; and
- b. Authorize increased contribution of \$75,000 to the study for fiscal year 2007/08.

Fiscal Impact: \$75,000 for continued participation to a total of \$275,000 since 2000

Business Analysis: Metropolitan, through the project, participates in a multi-stakeholder watershed protection, planning, and management activity that meets its statutory mandate to consider "...programs of groundwater recharge and replenishment, watershed management, habitat restoration, and environmentally compatible community development utilizing the resource potential of the Los Angeles River, the San Gabriel River ... including storm water runoff from these rivers..." (from SB 60 of 1999, Water Code §130.7).

Option #2

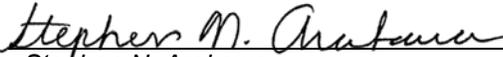
Do not approve continued participation.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Metropolitan would have lost an opportunity to satisfy the mandate from Water Code §130.7. The Water Augmentation Study would need to replace \$75,000 of local matching funds in order to pursue state and federal grants.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resource Management

5/9/2007

Date



Jeffrey Knightlinger
General Manager

5/25/2007

Date

Attachment 1 – Water Augmentation Study Funding Sources

BLA #5411

Water Augmentation Study Funding Sources

Directed by Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

<i>Fiscal Year Ending</i>	2000-2002	2003-2005	2006-2007	<u>Notes</u>
Cash Contributions:	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
LA County	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
LA DWP	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
LA City Sanitation	\$20,000	\$30,000		
Metropolitan	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
City of Santa Monica	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	
UC Riverside	--	--	\$2,615	
Water Replenishment District	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
LA Regional Water Quality Control Board	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	
US Bureau of Reclamation	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$1,047,123	
sub-total	\$323,000	\$439,500	\$1,429,238	\$2,191,738
In-Kind Services:				
DWR	\$85,000			drilling & well development
LA DWP & WRD			\$50,000	groundwater modeling support
TreePeople			\$5,000	BMP survey; outreach program design; etc
UC Riverside			\$90,000	economic research & modeling
City of LA				engineering drawings, construction management
sub-total	\$85,000	\$0	\$145,000	\$230,000
Grants:				
Prop. 13 (SWRCB)		\$985,000		
Prop. 50 (CALFED)		\$971,800		
sub-total		\$1,956,800		
Total Project	\$408,000	\$2,396,300	\$1,574,238	\$4,378,538
Completion date	6/30/2002	6/30/2005	9/30/2007	

- Phase 1 Pilot and study design
- Phase 2 Installation of BMPs and groundwater monitoring
- Phase 3 Computer model development and conceptual neighborhood retrofit design