

- **Board of Directors**
Communications and Legislation Committee

January 8, 2008 Board Meeting

8-2

Subject

Approve Legislative Strategy for 2008

Description

Metropolitan staff has developed a proposed federal and state legislative strategy for 2008. This strategy incorporates Metropolitan's overall conservation and sustainability objectives.

Federal Legislative Proposals*Water/Energy Sustainability*

- Identify and pursue development of "green" renewable water and energy programs that support the efficient and sustainable use of water
- Support initiatives that address climate change impacts on planning and investments in infrastructure, energy management and water supply development
- Support climate legislation that addresses the treatment of hydro generation (e.g., lower water levels in storage and resulting decrease in hydropower capabilities)
- Support water efficiency requirements for agricultural uses related to bio-fuel production

Colorado River

- Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Settlement Agreement:
 - Support authorizing legislation that codifies the terms of the Colorado River MSHCP and the use of water for environmental purposes under the plan
- Invasive Species Mitigation:
 - Develop and implement action plans to address the impacts, including funding needs, of invasive species (e.g., quagga mussels and tamarisks)
- Colorado River Aqueduct Renewable Energy Resources:
 - Seek legislative authority for federal funding to study, research and develop new renewable and reliable energy resources designed to reduce or offset carbon emission impacts of power resources currently being purchased by Metropolitan to operate the Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants

Water Quality

- Federal perchlorate drinking water standards:
 - Continue to support pending legislation that strengthens federal standards to ensure safe drinking water and includes research and development efforts related to enhanced clean up
- Maintain public water agency exemption for federal chemical security transportation regulations (e.g., chlorine gas). Educate Congress about the use of chlorine gas as an effective and economical disinfectant and security measures already in effect

Appropriations Priorities

- Bay-Delta:
 - Support \$1.5 million in funding for the Ecological System Restoration Activities in the CALFED Bay-Delta Restoration Program for FY09 Energy and Water Development appropriation
 - Support \$1 million in funding for the Corps of Engineers to coordinate and complete a review of Delta levees emergency preparedness and response planning with appropriate federal and state agencies
- Moab Clean-Up:
 - Continue to support expedited clean-up and funding
- Title XVI Program:
 - Continue to support the Bureau of Reclamation's water reclamation and reuse program, authorized by the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992 (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575), and sufficient funding to cover all authorized projects
- Water Conservation Field Service Program:
 - Request \$500,000 for FY09 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill to continue urban water conservation projects identified through Metropolitan
- Colorado River Salinity Control Program:
 - Continue to support funding for Title II of the Program in collaboration with the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum
- Diamond Valley Lake area, as authorized under Public Law 106-500. Seek funding for building un-motorized trails at Diamond Valley Lake

State Legislative Proposals*Implementation of Metropolitan's Delta Action Plan*

- Pursue state cost share from new and/or existing bonds for the following purposes:
 - Delta ecosystem restoration
 - Bay-Delta Conservation Plan
 - Delta Risk Management Strategy
 - Emergency response and preparedness planning
 - "No regrets" habitat investments
 - Invasive species control
 - Regional/local water supply reliability
- Delta Conservancy:
 - Support legislation to establish "Delta Conservancy" to foster implementation of and manage funds to implement components of the comprehensive Delta sustainability program intended to restore and manage habitat in the Delta and Suisun Marsh

Environmental Sustainability

- Water/Energy/Wastewater Task Force:
 - Pursue legislation or administrative directive to convene workgroup of state and local agencies and private sector stakeholders to evaluate and recommend actions to improve integration of water and energy conservation among water, wastewater and energy providers
- California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) Upgrade:
 - Pursue state funding to support and upgrade the CIMIS program database to provide web-based availability and standardized data protocol for transmission of evapotranspiration data
 - Expanding access to the system will result in significant water savings from large landscapes and irrigation scheduling and can help reduce urban runoff

Local Project Implementation

- Eliminate Barriers for Groundwater Recharge:
 - Pursue legislative or administrative remedies to streamline conjunctive use of imported and recycled water for groundwater recharge. Water resources are subject to multiple levels of responsibility and jurisdiction which can often impede implementation of important water management options. Regulatory review should focus on public health considerations as appropriate for municipal water supply

NOTE: In addition to the proposed legislative strategies for 2008, staff will continue to be engaged in state and federal legislation for which the Board has previously taken positions in support or opposition. New legislation not consistent with board-adopted policy will be presented to the Board for its consideration.

Policy

Supports Metropolitan's mission and overall conservation and sustainability objectives

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). However, in the future, for any project-specific actions that Metropolitan may take as outlined in the letter, additional CEQA review and documentation, as required, will need to be done prior to the Board's action.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and approve the 2008 Legislative Strategy.

Fiscal Impact: None


Option #2

Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Linda Waade
Deputy General Manager, External Affairs

12/26/2007

Date



Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

12/26/2007

Date

BLA #5637