MWD
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BOARD ACTION

- **Board of Directors**
  Water Quality and Operations Committee

July 8, 2008 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Authorize increased dues for continuing membership with the Awwa Research Foundation in an amount not to exceed $502,250

Description

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department head to join organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan, provided that (1) annual membership dues are $3,000 or less, and (2) any increase does not exceed 10 percent of the previous annual dues or $3,000, whichever is less. Continuing membership with the Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF) requires the Board's approval.

AwwaRF is a nonprofit corporation established in 1966 to promote, coordinate, and finance applied research in the operation and management of public water supplies. Applied research topics funded by AwwaRF address key problems identified by the water industry and provide essential information for impacting the development of drinking water regulations. Through its Strategic Research Initiatives Program, AwwaRF focuses resources on critical drinking water issues through a coordinated, long-term research effort that comprises multiple projects. AwwaRF has moved quickly to respond to the needs of the water community, taking a leadership role in sponsoring research to understand the relationship between climate change and water quality. Examples of some of the highlights in the 2007 Strategic Research Initiatives Program include:

- AwwaRF co-hosted two multi-national workshops to develop strategies to help utilities effectively plan for the uncertainties of climate change. More than $41 million in needed climate change research for utilities was identified.
- Two new initiatives were launched to focus resources on endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals in drinking water and on maintaining water quality in the distribution system.
- Communications outreach to subscribers included 47 new reports of research findings, a series of Webcasts presenting findings from studies not yet published, and a 50 percent increase in visits to the Web site over the previous year.

Metropolitan has proposed six projects for AwwaRF funding for 2008 (**Attachment 1**). Past AwwaRF findings on arsenic, perchlorate, disinfection by-products, and *Cryptosporidium*, assisted the drinking water industry in developing regulations and treatment options for these constituents. Currently, Metropolitan's Water Quality Section has a total of five applied research projects totaling approximately $1.1 million funded by AwwaRF (**Attachment 2**).

Metropolitan's contribution and contributions from other water utilities and consulting firms are used to fund necessary applied research projects in the drinking water field. Utility contributions are based on $1.85 per million gallons of water delivered per year, with credits given for water purchased from subscribing wholesalers and water sold wholesale. Therefore, Metropolitan's participation enables its member agencies to obtain a 60 percent discount in their contributions to the AwwaRF Research Subscription Program. Currently, 22 member agencies of Metropolitan are subscribers to AwwaRF. Collectively, this saves the member agencies an estimated $240,000 a year.

Metropolitan's dues in 2007/08 were $489,300. While the 2008/09 subscription of $502,250 represents a 2.6 percent increase from the previous year, this payment exceeds the annual dues maximum increase of $3,000 and requires board authorization.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11202: Payment of Dues

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11203: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes

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, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the increased dues in a total amount not to exceed $502,250.
Fiscal Impact: $502,250 budgeted membership funds

Option #2

Discontinue membership in this organization
Fiscal Impact: Direct budget savings equal to the cost of membership cancelled. Other undefined costs may increase due to lack of access to information available to members or duplication of efforts presently provided by the organization.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

6/16/2008
James F. Green *Date*
for *Eddie Rigdon*
Manager, Water System Operations

6/19/2008
Jeffrey Kightlinger *Date*
General Manager

Attachment 1 – List of Proposed AwwaRF Grants

Attachment 2 – List of Active AwwaRF Grants

BLA #6204

List of Proposed AwwaRF Grants

No.	Title of Grant Project	Benefits to Metropolitan	Total Project Budget ($)*	Amount of Award to MWD ($)**
1	Development of Standardized Analytical Methods for the Detection and Quantitation of Endocrine Disruptors and Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products	This study will assist in developing improved methods that provide reliable and consistent detection of pharmaceuticals allowing a greater understanding of the occurrence of these chemicals in Metropolitan's source and treated waters.	533,000	50,000
2	Development of a Protocol to Predict the Formation of Nitrosamines While Minimizing the Formation of Regulated Disinfection By-products	Nitrosamines have been detected in Metropolitan's distribution system and most likely will be regulated in the near future. The current project will examine methods to limit their formation and the formation of other related disinfection by-products that may also be regulated in the near future.	533,333	TBD***
3	The Formation of Halonitromethanes during Ozonation and Their Control with Biofiltration	Halonitromethanes are disinfection by-products formed during ozonation. These potential carcinogens are being considered for inclusion in future regulations. Preliminary information suggest that optimization of the biofiltration process, currently used at the Jensen and Mills treatment plants, may assist in reducing the formation of halonitromethanes.	~150,000	15,000
4	Development and Application of a Total Nitrosamine Assay for Disinfected Waters	This project will assist in developing a reliable detection assay for nitrosamines. Current methods are capable of measuring eight individual nitrosamines and this new assay will be able to assess additional nitrosamines. The ability to accurately monitor for these chemicals in Metropolitan's distribution system will aid in developing more effective control strategies.	~150,000	3,000
5	Interpreting On-line Monitoring Data for Event Detection	Using the technology of water quality data acquisition and management, this project will examine techniques to provide rapid detection of contamination events.	TBD (~350,000)	100,000
6	Use of Select Pharmaceuticals as Conservative Tracers of Wastewater Impact on Sources of Drinking Water	Current analytical methods cannot detect the thousands of different pharmaceuticals contained in wastewater discharge. The current study will evaluate whether or not the use of one or more pharmaceuticals can be used as "tracers" to assist in determining the presence of other pharmaceuticals. This approach will assist Metropolitan in assessing the impact of wastewater discharge in its source waters.	200,000	150,000
	TOTALS ($)		1,916,333	268,000

*Includes total in-kind contributions and payments to subcontractors.

**Amount managed by Metropolitan which includes payments for subcontractors as applicable.

*** TBD=To be determined

~ Appropriate

List of Active AwwaRF Grants

No.	Title of Grant Project	Benefits to Metropolitan	Total Project Budget ($)*	Amount of Award to MWD ($) **
1	Early Detection of Cyanobacterial Toxins Using Genetic Methods	Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are frequentl;y detected in Metropolitan's reservoirs. Some species can produce toxins of human health concern. This project will develop tools for early-warning detection of toxin-producing strains of cyanobacteria.	609,066	0***
2	Evaluation of Disinfection Practices for Disinfection By-products and Precursor Occurrence in Consecutive Systems	This project will help Metropolitan and its member agencies comply with the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-products Rule.	545,000	80,000
3	Detection of Infectious *Cryptosporidium* in Filtered Drinking Water	This project will evaluate and compare three methods for detecting infectious *Cryptosporidium* in treated drinking water.	1,024,177	496,405
4	Occurrence and Formation of Nitrogenous Disinfection By-Products	This project will provide information on this potentially carcinogenic class of drinking water by-products of chlorination.	517,025	192,000
5	Challenge Organisms for Inactivation of Viruses by Ultraviolet Treatment	Ultraviolet or UV treatment has proven effective in treating viruses in source water supplies. This project will further examine the applicability of UV treatment on new organisms of concern to Metropolitan.	834,180	350,000
	TOTALS ($)		3,529,448	1,118,405

*Includes total in-kind contributions and payments to subcontractors.

**Amount managed by Metropolitan which includes payments for subcontractors as applicable.

*** Receiving in-kind contribution only.