

● **Board of Directors**  
***Engineering and Capital Programs Committee***

October 14, 2008 Board Meeting

**8-3**

**Subject**

Authorize agreements with Black and Veatch, GeoPentech, and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants for final design of the Hayfield Extraction Project (Approp. 15402)

**Description**

This action authorizes final design of an extraction system for the Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program. The system will be designed to extract a total of 70,000 to 100,000 acre-feet of stored water over a 3- to 4-year period. No funds are required in this action, as sufficient funds have previously been appropriated. This project is categorized as a Supply Reliability project and is budgeted within Metropolitan's Capital Investment Plan (CIP).

**Background**

The Hayfield groundwater basin is located south of the Hinds pumping plant adjacent to the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). In June 2000, Metropolitan's Board authorized a feasibility study for storing surplus CRA water in the Hayfield basin for future extraction. In December 2002, the Board authorized detailed investigations of the Hayfield groundwater basin. The scope included aquifer characterization, exploratory borings, wells for water quality sampling, test spreading activities, geophysical studies, and development of a groundwater model. Data gathered from the field investigations, along with the results of the groundwater modeling effort, indicated that the groundwater basin has sufficient capacity to store up to 400,000 acre-feet of water. As a part of this study, over 70,000 acre-feet of CRA water was discharged into the Hayfield groundwater basin for investigation, modeling, and storage purposes.

In November 2004, the Board deferred the Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program because it was clear that surplus Colorado River water would not be available in the foreseeable future to store in the Hayfield aquifer. With Metropolitan's water supplies recently becoming more limited, staff initiated a study in early 2008 to reevaluate the feasibility of extracting the water, which had previously been stored in the Hayfield groundwater basin. In order to enhance Metropolitan's raw water supplies, staff recommends that final design of a new pumping facility for the Hayfield basin proceed at this time. This action would authorize a scaled down Hayfield program intended to capture existing water stored in the Hayfield basin, but would not allow for operation of a large-scale storage and extraction program. Given current supply conditions on the Colorado River, the finalization of Lake Mead banking criteria and expansion of Metropolitan's storage program in the Coachella Valley, staff does not foresee a need for more storage capacity at Hayfield in the near future.

**Hayfield Extraction Project – Final Design Phase (No funds required)**

Staff estimates that 90,000 to 100,000 acre-feet of CRA water has been stored over time by Metropolitan in the Hayfield aquifer, based on spreading activities during the groundwater program's study phase and on historical discharges from the CRA. The goal of the proposed extraction project is to pump the existing stored water back into the CRA conveyance system over a 3- to 4-year duration, commencing in 2010 or earlier. The facilities would consist of approximately four extraction wells and pump stations; two miles of pipelines; associated power, communication and monitoring systems; and ancillary facilities. As indicated to the Board when this project was initially considered, water in the Hayfield basin has a number of constituents with levels that are higher than ambient levels in the CRA. These constituents include uranium, radon, fluoride, and nitrates. The extraction wells will be designed and operated in a manner that will ensure compliance with all applicable water quality requirements. Based on extensive study of the basin, staff has concluded that water quality is not a roadblock to implementation of this program.

This action would authorize final design phase activities for a Hayfield Extraction Project. These activities include engineering design, preparation of drawings and specifications, development of a construction cost estimate, receipt of bids on up to four contracts, permitting, conducting a value engineering review, and all other activities in advance of award of construction and procurement contracts. Final design is recommended to be performed by Black & Veatch Corporation, GeoPentech, Inc., and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. under agreements as described below. Metropolitan staff will perform project management and permitting.

The projected cost to complete the Hayfield Extraction Project is approximately \$21 million. Based on this estimate, the cost of water would range from \$210 to \$250 per acre-foot. Staff will return to the Board at a later date for award of the procurement and construction contracts.

#### **Technical Engineering Support – New Agreement with Black & Veatch Corporation**

Black & Veatch performed previous engineering studies for the Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program and is the most knowledgeable firm about the wellfield hydraulics and planned interconnections to the CRA and power facilities. Black & Veatch was selected through a competitive process via Request for Qualifications No. 833, and staff recommends that Black & Veatch perform design of the conveyance system and power facilities.

This action would authorize an agreement with Black & Veatch in an amount not to exceed \$1.25 million to provide final design services for the Hayfield Extraction Project. For this agreement, Metropolitan did not establish any Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation goals. Instead, staff proposes to enter into a separate agreement directly with GeoPentech, which is an SBE firm (see below), rather than have GeoPentech serve as a subconsultant to Black & Veatch. This approach would encourage open communication and facilitate the use of shared information among the three design firms.

#### **Technical Engineering Support – New Agreement with GeoPentech, Inc.**

GeoPentech performed previous geotechnical investigations and hydrogeologic modeling of the Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program, and is the most knowledgeable firm about the hydrogeologic basin conditions. GeoPentech was selected through a competitive process via Request for Qualifications No. 787, and staff recommends that GeoPentech provide hydrogeologic technical support for basin modeling and drilling of the wells.

This action would authorize an agreement with GeoPentech in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to provide geotechnical services for the Hayfield Extraction Project. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 18 percent. GeoPentech is an SBE firm and thus achieves 100 percent participation.

#### **Technical Engineering Support – New Agreement with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.**

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants performed feasibility studies and aquifer pumping tests for the Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program, and is the most knowledgeable firm about well drilling within the basin. Kennedy/Jenks was selected through a competitive process via Request for Qualifications No. 833, and staff recommends that Kennedy/Jenks perform design of the wells and pumps for the project.

This action would authorize an agreement with Kennedy/Jenks in an amount not to exceed \$1.33 million to provide final design services for the Hayfield Extraction Project. For this agreement, Metropolitan has established an SBE participation level of 18 percent.

#### **Summary**

This action authorizes agreements with Black & Veatch, Geopentech, and Kennedy/Jenks for design services and specialized technical support for the Hayfield Extraction Project. No new funds are required for this action, as sufficient funds have previously been appropriated. [Attachment 1](#) shows the distribution of previously appropriated funds for this program. The Hayfield Extraction Project was not included within the capital budget for fiscal year 2008/09 because the extraction feasibility study was not completed at the time of adoption of the budget. Upon approval of this action, the fiscal year 2008/09 capital expenditure plan will be adjusted to reflect the new work. This project has been evaluated and recommended by Metropolitan's CIP Evaluation Team.

This project is consistent with Metropolitan's goals for sustainability by enhancing reliability of the existing conveyance and distribution system in order to maintain reliable water deliveries in the future. See [Attachment 2](#) for the Location Map.

#### ***Actions and Milestones***

February 2009 – Completion of final design for wellfield and conveyance facilities

May 2009 – Award of construction contract

Late 2009 – Planned initial extraction of groundwater

#### **Policy**

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter Contracts

#### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The Board adopted the project's Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on April 13, 1999. The Board also approved at that time the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and the project itself. On September 5, 2008, Addendum No.1 to the MND was prepared to document the proposed minor modifications to the approved project as detailed elsewhere in this board letter (see [Attachment 3](#)). CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines require the preparation of an addendum to a previously adopted MND if changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines calling for the preparation of a subsequent MND have occurred (Section 15164 of the State CEQA Guidelines). Instead, the proposed project modifications, including entering into agreements for engineering and geotechnical services, require only minor changes or additions to the evaluation in the adopted MND to make it adequate under CEQA. None of the proposed modifications alters the original determination by the Board. Accordingly, based on the whole record before the Board, there is no substantial evidence that, with the originally adopted mitigation measures required by the adopted MND, the proposed modifications to the previously approved project will have a significant impact on the environment.

The CEQA determination is: Review and consider the information contained in Addendum No. 1 with the MND and MMRP and find, based on the whole of the record before the Board, that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed modifications to the previously approved project will have a significant impact on the physical environment; that the Addendum to the MND reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis; and adopt Addendum No. 1.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

#### **Board Options**

##### **Option #1**

Adopt the CEQA determination and

- a. Authorize final design of the Hayfield Extraction Project;
- b. Authorize an agreement with Black & Veatch Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$1.25 million;
- c. Authorize an agreement with Geopentech, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$500,000; and
- d. Authorize an agreement with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.33 million.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$4.9 million of previously appropriated and budgeted funds under Approp. 15402

**Business Analysis:** This project will allow Metropolitan to extract approximately 90,000 to 100,000 acre-feet of previously stored water over a 3- to 4-year period at an estimated unit cost of \$250 to \$300 per acre-foot, and would enhance water supply reliability.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize final design of the Hayfield Extraction Project.

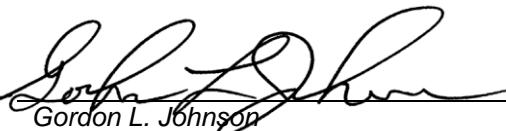
**Fiscal Impact:** Higher cost water supplies may be required in the future.

**Business Analysis:** Metropolitan would not be able to extract previously stored water from the Hayfield basin.

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1



Gordon L. Johnson  
for Roy L. Wolfe  
Manager, Corporate Resources

10/2/2008  
Date



Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager

10/2/2008  
Date

**Attachment 1 – Financial Statement****Attachment 2 – Location Map****Attachment 3 – Addendum No. 1 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration**

BLA #6265

## **Financial Statement for Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program**

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A breakdown of Appropriation No. 15402 is as follows:

	<b>Previous Total Appropriated Amount (Dec. 2002)</b>	<b>Previous Total Appropriated Amount * (Nov. 2004)</b>	<b>Current Budget Redistribution ** (Oct. 2008)</b>	<b>Total Appropriated Amount</b>
<b>Labor</b>				
Studies & Investigations	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000
Final Design	2,040,000	-	410,000	410,000
Owners Costs (Program mgmt, & envir. monitoring)	3,690,000	2,400,000	800,000	3,200,000
Construction Inspection & Support	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Force Construction	1,000,000	-	-	-
Materials and Supplies	150,000	80,000	-	80,000
Incidental Expenses	40,000	25,000	20,000	45,000
Professional/Technical Services	11,780,000	7,200,000	3,080,000	10,280,000
Equipment Use	5,000	-	-	-
Land Purchase	3,150,000	2,400,000	-	2,400,000
Contracts	-	-	-	-
Remaining Budget	3,360,000	1,300,000	590,000	1,890,000
Remaining Undistributed Funds	-	11,810,000	(4,900,000)	6,910,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,715,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,715,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 25,715,000</b>

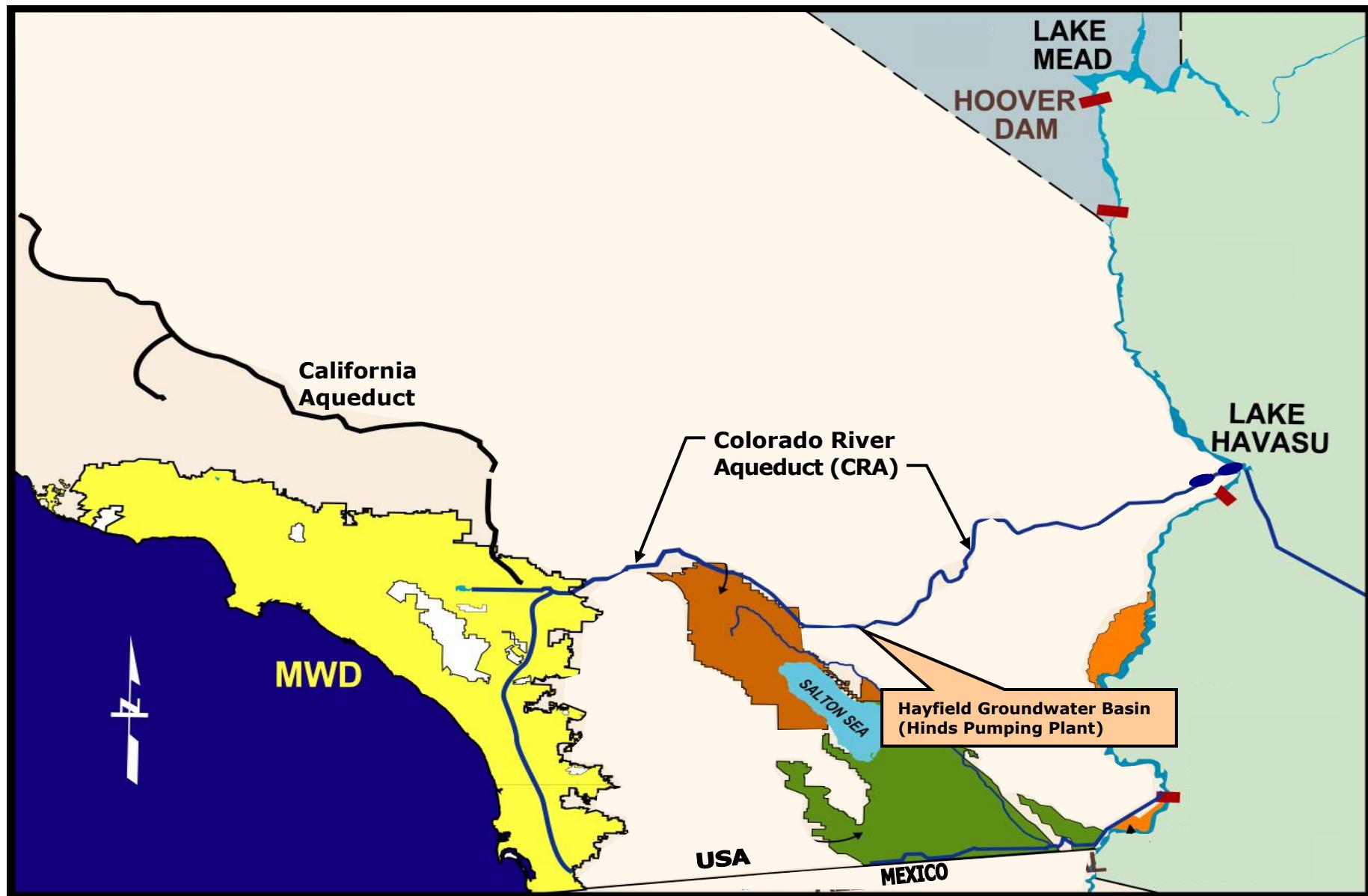
### **Funding Request**

<b>Program Name:</b>	Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program		
<b>Source of Funds:</b>	Revenue Bonds, Replacement and Refurbishment or General Funds		
<b>Appropriation No.:</b>	15402	<b>Board Action No.:</b>	2
<b>Requested Amount:</b>	\$ 0	<b>Capital Program No.:</b>	15402
<b>Total Appropriated Amount:</b>	\$ 25,715,000	<b>Capital Program Page No.:</b>	E-31
<b>Total Program Estimate:</b>	\$ 48,000,000*	<b>Program Goal:</b>	S- Supply Reliability

\*Budget distribution and total program estimate were revised to reflect deferral of the program in November 2004.

\*\*Reflects the scope of work contained in the present action.

## Hayfield Groundwater Storage Program



**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR  
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
HAYFIELD LAKE/CHUCKWALLA VALLEY GROUNDWATER  
CONJUNCTIVE-USE PROJECT  
FEBRUARY 1999**

(State Clearinghouse No. 1999031005)

**The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Environmental Planning Team  
700 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

September 2008

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of Addendum

The purpose of this Addendum is to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with a minor project modification to the previously adopted Hayfield Lake/Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH #1999031005).

In order to meet water demands of southern California's growing population, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) established a process to secure supplemental water supplies and utilize regional groundwater storage for future dry-year use. A survey of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) alignment identified several potential conjunctive-use projects that could be developed. These potential projects use groundwater basins that are located adjacent to the CRA. The Hayfield Groundwater Basin was identified as one potential location where conserved or surplus Colorado River water could be stored, usually during wet years, and withdrawn when needed to meet Metropolitan's demands, usually during dry years.

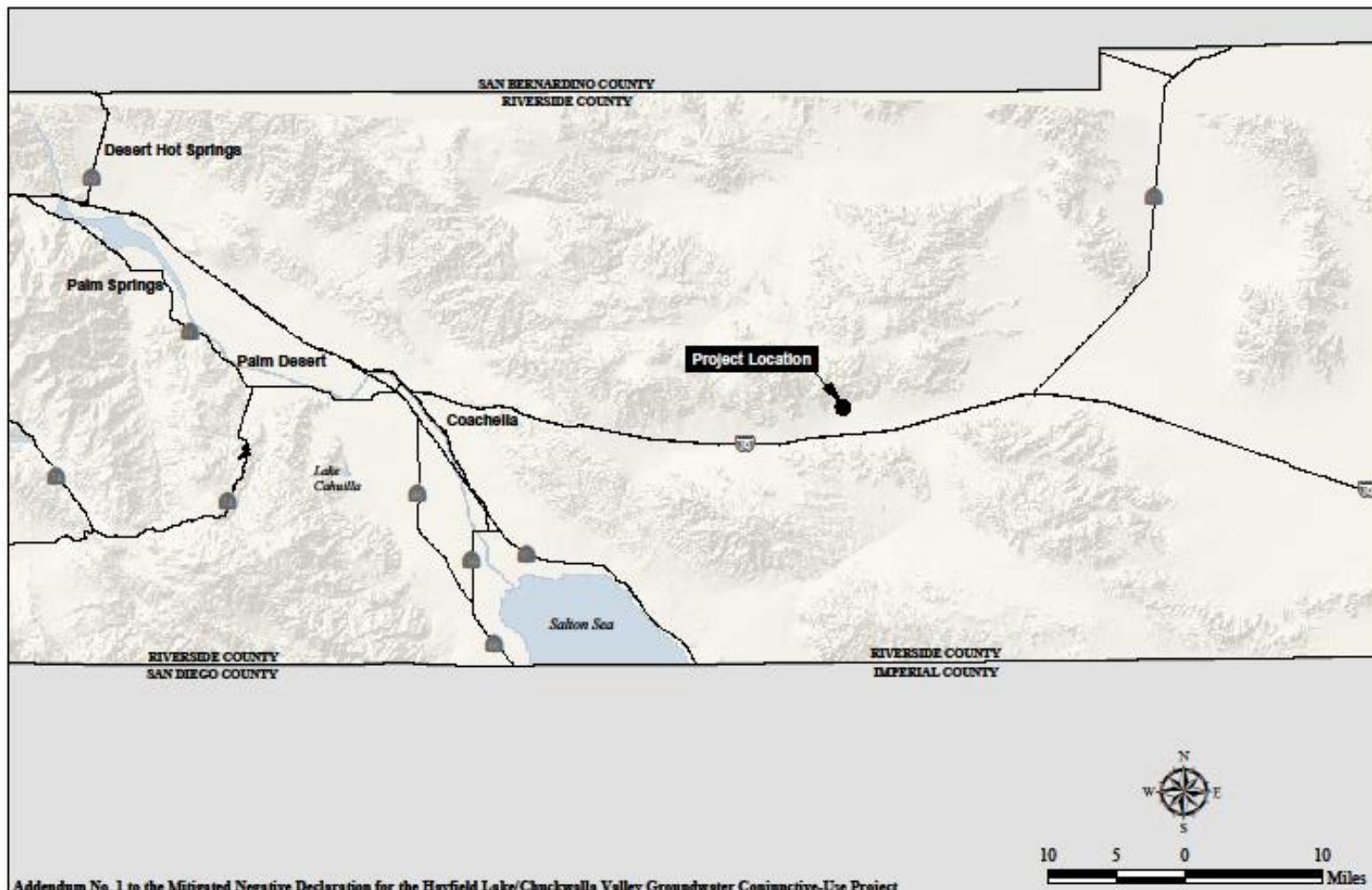
The original Hayfield Lake/Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project (Original Project), for which Metropolitan approved the MND in February 1999 (1999 MND), would store approximately 500,000 to 1,000,000 acre-feet of available CRA water into the Hayfield and Chuckwalla Groundwater Basins during wet years. During dry years, Metropolitan would recover approximately 100,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year of the stored water, which would be placed in the CRA for use in Metropolitan's service area. Approximately 46 wells would be required for the ultimate buildup of the project.

The Original Project consisted of three components:

- Geotechnical and hydrogeological investigations and a pilot demonstration program;
- Construction of the full scale facilities to store and retrieve stored water; and
- Land acquisition in the vicinity of the Original Project site to consolidate property ownership in order to protect stored water resources and quality.

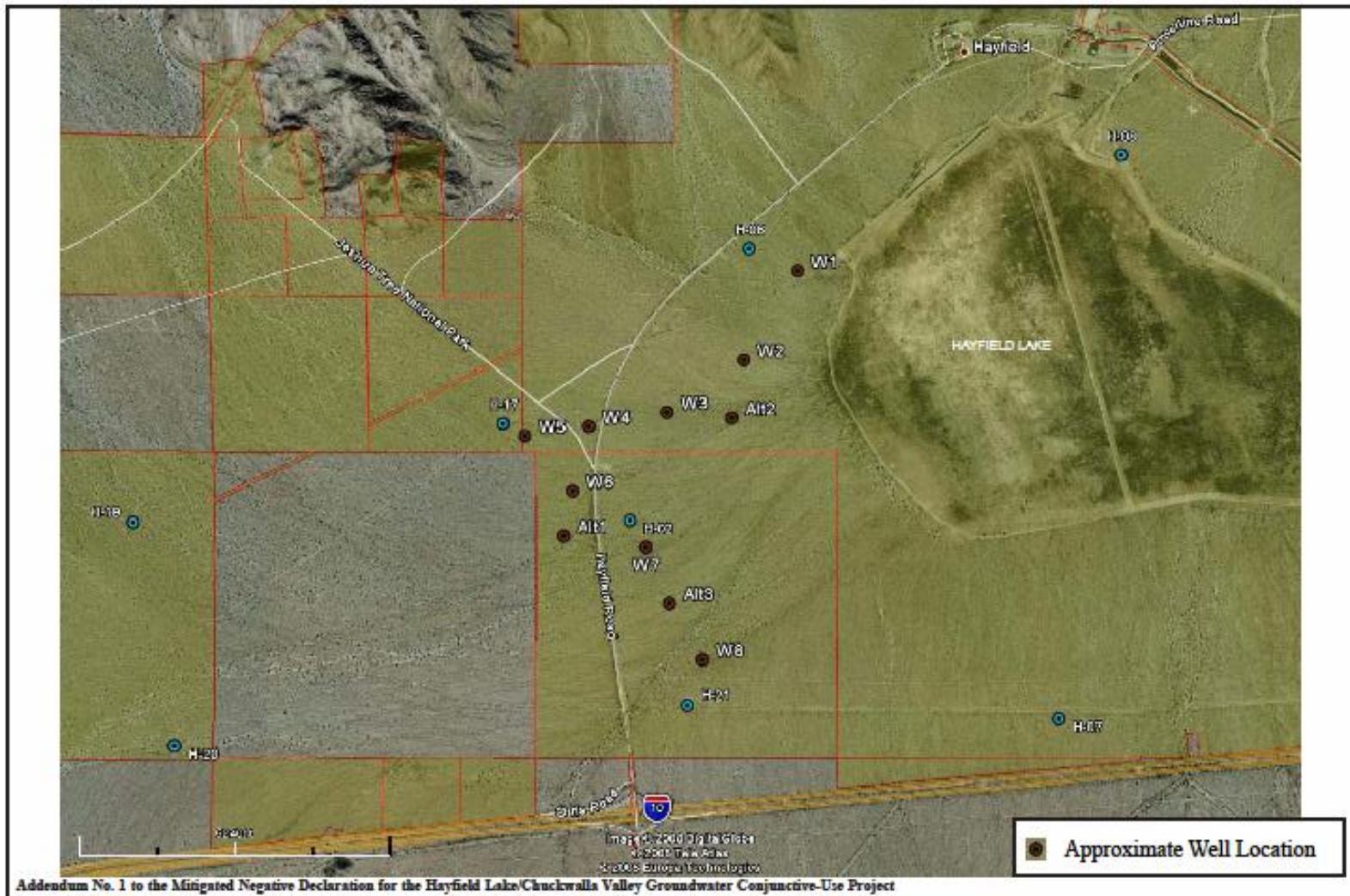
Subsequent to Metropolitan's adoption of the 1999 MND, a minor modification to the Original Project has been identified. The proposed project modification (Modified Project) includes moving the location of the extraction wells from an area east of Hayfield Lake to an area approximately 1.7 miles to 2.9 miles west along Hayfield Road, which is located west of Hayfield Lake. The regional location of the Modified Project site is shown on Figure 1. The location of the wells is shown on Figure 2. The locations identified are approximate and will be further refined during final design of the Modified Project.

To comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and *State CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq., hereinafter referred to as “*Guidelines*”), this Addendum to the adopted 1999 MND has been prepared to evaluate the proposed changes to the Original Project’s description.



**Regional Location Map**  
HAYFIELD GROUNDWATER PROJECT ADDENDUM NO.1

Figure 1



## Project Site and Conceptual Well Layout

HAYFIELD GROUNDWATER PROJECT ADDENDUM NO.1

Figure 2

This Addendum includes an analysis of the environmental issues that were identified in the 1999 MND for which impacts were determined to be "Less Than Significant" or "Less Than Significant with Mitigation." Specific environmental issues analyzed in this Addendum include: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, and Noise. All other environmental issues were determined to have "No Impact" in the 1999 MND and Metropolitan determined no further analysis was necessary.

## 1.2 Regulatory Background

According to Section 15164(b) of the *Guidelines*, "An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred." Section 15162 of the *Guidelines* lists the conditions that would require the preparation of a subsequent EIR rather than an addendum. These include the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
  - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
  - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
  - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
  - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Metropolitan has reviewed the proposed modification to the Original Project, described in detail in Section 3.0 of this Addendum, in light of Section 15162 of the *Guidelines*. As the CEQA Lead Agency, Metropolitan has determined that none of the above conditions apply and an addendum to the 1999 MND is the appropriate environmental document for the proposed modification to the Original Project.

## **2.0 Incorporation by Reference**

The following documents were used in the preparation of this Addendum, and are incorporated herein by reference, consistent with Section 15150 of the *Guidelines*:

- Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hayfield Lake/Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project. February 1999.
- Draft Technical Memorandum Hayfield Groundwater Recovery Scheme. February 2008.

## **3.0 Project Modification Description**

Subsequent to approving the Original Project (as described in Section 1.0 of this Addendum) and adopting the 1999 MND, Metropolitan has proposed a minor project modification, which needs to be addressed within the context of CEQA and the *Guidelines*.

The proposed project modification includes moving the location of the extraction wells from an area east of Hayfield Lake to an area along Hayfield Road, which is located west of Hayfield Lake, as shown on Figure 2. As with the Original Project, the proposed project modification would require the construction of extraction wells, conveyance pipelines from the wells to a common conveyance pipeline leading to the CRA, access roads to the wells, overhead power lines from Metropolitan's Julian Hinds Pumping Plant to each well, and a construction laydown area. The laydown area is located near the existing sand traps at the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant and has been used many times over the past six years during CRA shutdowns and other Metropolitan operations and maintenance work.

There would be eight extraction wells installed and construction of access roads leading to each well from Hayfield Road. As in the Original Project, the impact area for each well site would be 100- by 100-feet, and the access roads would be 25 feet wide. The conveyance pipelines would range from 14 to 42 inches in diameter and would be buried at least 36 inches. As indicated earlier, the conveyance pipelines would connect each well to a common conveyance pipeline, which would eventually discharge into the CRA. The conveyance pipelines would parallel Hayfield Road and would extend to the discharge point at the existing CRA sand traps located on the eastern portion of the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant.

Conceptual well schemes indicate that the wells may be approximately 10.5 feet tall and 2 feet wide. The wells and appurtenant facilities would be located on a 20- by 32-foot concrete pad surrounded by chain-link fence. The wells may be equipped with aboveground, line-shaft, vertical turbine pumps or submersible motor, vertical turbine pumps. The discharge piping would include a check valve, a motor operated isolation valve, and air release valves. At least one pressure indicator and one high-accuracy flow meter would also be included. Pump to waste piping would be provided near the pump discharge as required to send excess water to waste (to remove objectionable debris and sand) at the pump start-up. After the wells have been drilled and the well casing, screens, gravel pack, and sanitary seals have been installed, the wells would be pumped during a development period with the water discharged to the surrounding ground for percolation back into the Hayfield Groundwater Basin. Although the Original Project entailed recovery of approximately 500,000 to 1,000,000 acre-feet of stored water (approximately 100,000 to 150,000 acre-feet per year) from the basin through 46 wells, the Modified Project would recover approximately 100,000 acre-feet of stored water over a period of approximately 2 to 3 years through 8 wells.

As in the 1999 MND, new electrical facilities would be installed to provide power to the wells. A 6.9 kilovolt (kV) circuit would extend west along Hayfield Road and would have cross-arms, insulators, and grounding at 200-foot intervals. For each well pump, a 6.9 kV circuit would be tapped from the main circuit. Each pump would have a final riser pole that would transition the 6.9 kV overhead circuit to a short underground conduit run to a step-down transformer. The overhead power lines would be 20 feet tall and would extend from the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant to each well site.

The completed well sites would consist of eight 100- by 100-foot temporarily disturbed well construction areas, eight 20- by 32-foot concrete well pads within the construction boundaries and surrounded by a chain-link fence at a 15-foot offset from each edge of the pad, overhead power lines from the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant to each well location, 25-foot access roads to each well site, and buried conveyance pipelines. All temporarily impacted areas would be restored (i.e., returned to original topographic conditions and topsoil would be returned after construction). The total impact area would be approximately 23 acres, consisting of 7 acres of undisturbed land and 16 acres of disturbed land. The entire project site would be located on property owned by Metropolitan. The project area is comprised of asphalt and dirt roads, open space, and Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and is surrounded by water and electrical facilities, Interstate 10, and the Eagle Mountains.

Implementation of the Modified Project would support the Original Project objective to secure supplemental water supplies and utilize regional groundwater storage for future dry-year use.

#### **4.0 Environmental Setting and Analysis**

The Modified Project is located north of Interstate 10, west of Hayfield Lake along Hayfield Road, and southwest of the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant in Riverside County.

The elevation of the Modified Project site is between approximately 1,327 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and 1,400 feet amsl. The Modified Project site and surrounding areas consist of Sonoran creosote bush scrub, with occasional desert species trees and open space. Land uses around the Modified Project site include the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant, a residential village for plant employees, and the CRA to the north. Interstate 10 is to the south, and Joshua Tree National Park is located to the north and northwest of the Modified Project site.

Construction of the wells and appurtenant facilities would result in impacts to approximately 16 acres of disturbed land and 7 acres of undisturbed land, all owned by Metropolitan. Where possible, proposed facilities would be located in disturbed areas such as existing asphalt and dirt roads and previously disturbed land. Undisturbed land includes Sonoran creosote bush scrub, characterized by sparse disturbed creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), cheesebush (*Hymenoclea salsola*), and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) scrub, with occasional desert species trees including palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeate*), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), and acacia species (*Acacia* spp.). Drainage is a typical desert braided wash and is generally from the northwest to the southeast to Hayfield Lake. The area shows signs of regular disturbance by off-road vehicle use such as quads, dirt bikes, and full-size trucks, throughout the area.

The following discussion addresses the effects of the Modified Project relative to the analysis of the Original Project provided in the 1999 MND.

#### **4.1 Aesthetics**

**I.a      Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?**

Source: Project Description; *Desert Tortoise Survey, Hayfield Lake Groundwater Recovery Project* (Metropolitan 2008); Riverside County General Plan, 2003, Figure LU-4, Area Plan Boundaries; California Department of Transportation, *Scenic Highway Routes: Caltrans Landscape Architecture Program* and *Officially Designated Scenic Highways: Caltrans Landscape Architecture Program* websites

The wells and appurtenant facilities for the Original Project were to be located east of Hayfield Lake, north of Interstate 10 and south of the CRA. The Julian Hinds Pumping Plant and village and Eagle Mountains are to the northeast. The Modified Project would relocate the originally proposed wells and appurtenant facilities to a site west of Hayfield Lake. The Modified Project site is north of Interstate 10 and south of the CRA, Julian Hinds Pumping Plant and village, and Eagle Mountains. Joshua Tree National Park is located to the north and northwest of the Modified Project site. Overhead power lines originating from the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant extend in a southwestern direction west of the Modified Project site.

The Modified Project area is composed of Sonoran creosote bush scrub, with occasional desert species trees. Roads and highways, including Interstate 10, surrounding the Modified Project site, are not identified as State or County scenic highways.

Construction activities for the Modified Project include grading of well pads and access roads, installation of 14- to 42-inch conveyance pipelines, installation of overhead power lines and wells, and hauling of materials. These are the same types of construction activities analyzed for the Original Project in the 1999 MND. During the construction phase of the Modified Project, which would occur over approximately two years, construction equipment would be visible to motorists traveling on Interstate 10. However, due to the existence of the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant, the CRA and the Eagle Mountain Mine in the general vicinity of the Modified Project, the appearance of heavy equipment and trucks is a routine and common occurrence.

Permanent visible features of the Modified Project would include eight 20- by 32-foot concrete well pads surrounded by chain-link fence, eight wells approximately 10.5 feet tall and 2 feet wide, overhead power lines, and access roads to the wells. The overhead power lines would be approximately 20 feet tall and would extend from the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant to each well site. All of these project components were part of the Original Project. Operation and maintenance activities for the Modified Project would include the use of one truck per week.

As indicated earlier: (i) the Modified Project site is not in the vicinity of a designated scenic highway; (ii) the use and presence of heavy equipment is a routine and common occurrence due to existing land uses in the vicinity of the Modified Project and would be temporary in nature; and (iii) construction, operation, and maintenance activities for the Modified Project would be similar to those previously analyzed in the 1999 MND. Therefore, the Modified Project would have a less than significant impact on a scenic vista.

## 4.2 Air Quality

- III.b)** *Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

Source: Project Description; *Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hayfield Lake/Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project* (Metropolitan 1999)

The Original Project included grading of approximately 46 well pads and access roads, installation of conveyance pipelines, overhead power lines,

and 46 wells, and hauling of materials. It also included employee vehicle trips to and from the job site for the duration of construction. Air pollutant emissions generated by the Original Project would have included limited quantities of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from construction equipment. The 1999 MND concluded that these emissions would result in less than significant impacts to air quality.

The Modified Project has been down-sized from approximately 46 wells with appurtenant facilities to 8 wells with appurtenant facilities over a construction period of approximately two years. As with the Original Project, air pollutant emissions generated by the Modified Project would include limited quantities of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from construction activities and equipment. However, since the Modified Project has been reduced in size and extended over a longer period of time, the amount of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions generated by the Modified Project would be less than the Original Project, and impacts associated with the Modified Project would also be less than significant.

- III.c** *Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

Source: Project Description; *Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hayfield Lake/Chuckwalla Valley Groundwater Conjunctive-Use Project* (Metropolitan 1999)

As noted above, air pollutant emissions will increase temporarily during the construction phase. The Modified Project is smaller in scope than the Original Project. The 1999 MND concluded that air quality impacts would be temporary and less than significant. This Addendum concludes that this reduced Modified Project would also have less than significant impacts on air quality.

#### **4.3 Biological Resources**

- IV.a** *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Source: Project Description; *Desert Tortoise Survey, Hayfield Lake Groundwater Recovery Project* (Metropolitan 2008); Coachella Valley MSHCP, Page 4-125 and Figures 4-22a and 4-22c (Desert Tortoise and

Linkage Conservation Area); and USFWS *Threatened & Endangered Species System* website

The Modified Project site is located within the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan (Coachella Valley MSHCP) Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area. The site consists of Sonoran creosote bush scrub, and is characterized by sparse disturbed creosote bush, cheesebush, and brittlebush scrub, with occasional desert species trees including palo verde, mesquite, and acacia species. Drainage is a typical desert braided wash, and is generally from the northwest to the southeast to Hayfield Lake. Sonoran creosote bush scrub is considered a conserved natural community in the Coachella Valley MSHCP and habitat for desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*).

Desert tortoises, which are state and federally threatened, occur in the area. Desert tortoises are also a covered species by the Coachella Valley MSHCP. Surveys for desert tortoises were conducted for the Modified Project site in May and August 2008 as prescribed in the "Field Survey Protocol for any Federal Action That May Occur Within the Range of the Desert Tortoise, January 1992." The results of this survey indicate that no desert tortoise or desert tortoise sign (shell, bones, scat, scutes, limbs, burrows, pallets, or tracks) were observed within the Modified Project site or zone of influence. One desert tortoise carcass was observed approximately 350 feet north-northwest of a proposed well site.

Wildlife species observed during the survey include black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), and lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*). Sign (burrows, tracks, dust rolls, and scat) of small mammals, such as kangaroo rats, ground squirrels, and desert woodrats, were observed scattered across the site, as were a few canid diggings in search of prey. Additionally, several inactive desert kit fox burrows were observed during the course of the surveys.

The Modified Project would impact approximately 16 acres of disturbed land, which includes existing roads, portions of Metropolitan's operations areas, and areas that are used by off-road vehicles, and approximately 7 acres of undisturbed land. Permanent project facilities include eight 20- by 32-foot concrete well pads with wells surrounded by chain-link fence, access roads, overhead power lines, and buried conveyance pipelines. Of these facilities, only the 20- by 32-foot well pads, access roads and conveyance pipelines would be considered a permanent surface

(or subsurface) impact and therefore could be considered a permanent habitat modification. All other areas would be temporarily impacted during construction and would be returned to original topographic conditions and the topsoil would be returned.

The 1999 MND incorporated mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse impacts to desert tortoises during construction and operation of the Original Project to less than significant. These mitigation measures, listed below, would also apply to the Modified Project.

- “Take” of desert tortoise must be avoided at all times.
- All project workers will be given an environmental compliance orientation prior to the start of construction activities, with emphasis on the desert tortoise and the Endangered Species Act. This orientation will include a thorough review of all protection measures to be followed during the planned construction activities.
- All areas to be graded will be checked immediately prior to grading by the monitoring biologist. The biologist will be present with the construction crews during construction activities to check for tortoises and to alert the construction equipment operators to the presence of flagged burrows and pallets. Any burrows or pallets in the construction areas will be avoided completely during construction. In the event that a tortoise is observed, construction activities in that area will cease until the animal (under observation by the monitoring biologist) has moved out of harm’s way.
- If a burrow is found which was not previously reported in the survey report, the site will be mapped and flagged in the field by the monitoring biologist, and reported immediately to Metropolitan’s Environmental Planning Branch. To preclude any impacts to the burrow, the monitoring biologist will flag a 50-foot buffer area around the site. No foot traffic will be allowed on or near the burrow. Construction activities will be directed away from the burrow site.
- The monitoring biologist will inform any new construction personnel about the status and protection of the desert tortoise and will review this monitoring plan with them.
- The monitoring biologist will conduct a daily search of the staging area for desert tortoise or desert tortoise sign. He will search under all construction equipment and vehicles, including pickup trucks, for desert tortoise prior to starting up any of this equipment.
- All vehicles and equipment will travel at speeds not greater than 25 MPH while traversing desert tortoise habitat.

- The monitoring biologist will ensure that no trash is left in or on the right-of-way to preclude attraction of scavengers such as ravens, coyotes, and kit fox which are all desert tortoise predators.
- Habitat preservation or acquisition will be made at a 3:1 ratio for suitable occupied desert tortoise habitat disturbed and at a 1:1 ratio for unoccupied suitable desert tortoise habitat disturbed.

Due to the implementation of these previously adopted mitigation measures, the absence of desert tortoises within the Modified Project site, and the small area of temporary and permanent impacts associated with the Modified Project, impacts associated with the Modified Project are less than significant with mitigation.

**IV.b)** *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Source: Project Description; *Desert Tortoise Survey, Hayfield Lake Groundwater Recovery Project* (Metropolitan 2008); Coachella Valley MSHCP, Page 4-125 and Figures 4-22a and 4-22c (Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area)

There is no riparian habitat within the Modified Project site. The Modified Project site consists of Sonoran creosote bush scrub, with occasional desert species trees including palo verde, mesquite, and acacia species. The Modified Project site is located within the Coachella Valley MSHCP Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area in which Sonoran creosote bush scrub is considered a conserved natural community.

As previously indicated, the Modified Project would impact approximately 16 acres of disturbed land and approximately 7 acres of undisturbed land. Disturbed land includes existing roads, portions of Metropolitan's operations areas, and areas that are used by off-road vehicles. Permanent project facilities include eight 20- by 32-foot concrete well pads with wells surrounded by chain-link fence, access roads, overhead power lines, and buried conveyance pipelines. Of these facilities, only the 20- by 32-foot well pads and access roads would be considered a permanent surface impact to Sonoran creosote bush scrub. All other areas would be temporarily impacted during construction and would be returned to original topographic conditions where the topsoil would be returned once construction is completed.

Due to the lack of riparian habitat within the Modified Project site and the small area of temporary and permanent impacts associated with the

Modified Project, the Modified Project would have a less than significant impact on riparian habitat or a sensitive natural community.

- IV.c)** *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

Source: *Desert Tortoise Survey, Hayfield Lake Groundwater Recovery Project* (Metropolitan 2008)

Drainage in the Modified Project site is comprised of a desert braided wash. No wetlands occur or traverse the Modified Project site. Therefore, there are no impacts associated with the Modified Project.

#### 4.4 Cultural Resources

- V.a)** *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?*

Source: *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Hayfield Groundwater Recovery Scheme* (Applied EarthWorks, Inc. 2008); *Draft Historic Properties Treatment Plan for the Colorado River Aqueduct* (Beedle et al. 2006)

Section V.b of the 1999 MND identified mitigation measures for impacts to cultural resources. Several of these measures apply to this section, as well as Sections V.b and V.d, of the Addendum.

An archaeological literature and records search for the Modified Project site was completed in August 2008 by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (AE). AE's records show that four historical cultural resources (CA-RIV-691H, CA-RIV-6726H, P33-006824, and P33-14190), three prehistoric resources (CA-RIV-95, CA-RIV-1048, and CA-RIV-1546), and one isolated prehistoric artifact (P33-011383) have been recorded previously within a one-mile radius of the Modified Project site. Of these recorded sites, P33-14190 is the only site within the Area of Direct Impact (ADI).

Field surveys of the ADI were conducted on May 28 through 30, 2008, and on August 29, 2008. During the surveys, AE identified a segment of P33-14190, a historical road which crosses several proposed access roads and pipelines to proposed well sites. The historical road segment within the ADI averages approximately 16 feet wide. There is no formal roadbed surface (i.e., asphalt or "oil and soil") present. The eastern edge of the road is lined by an 8- to 12-inch high berm of sand and gravel resulting

from the road grading process. The western edge of the road is delineated by a series of broken concrete anchors spaced every 10 to 12 feet along the road edge. These anchors were used to support metal posts, the imprints of which are clearly shown in the concrete anchor remnants. It is possible that the road was part of the construction of pipeline that provided water to a CRA work camp. If so, because the road crossed a series of washes, the pipeline would have been set above ground. The concrete would have been poured into holes, and the support pipe inserted into the wet concrete. After construction of the CRA was completed, it was Metropolitan policy to remove all metal from any structure that was no longer to be used. Therefore, the concrete anchors are all that remain of the pipeline structure. Overall, approximately 25 to 27 of these concrete anchors are present along the western edge of the recorded road segment.

The concrete anchors are considered "Remnant Infrastructure Features" and are one of the property types associated with the CRA, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D (Beedle et al. 2006). Associated resources were not part of the aqueduct proper, but were essential to its completion and operation. Infrastructure water features include wells, reservoirs, water tanks, and pipelines. Because of Metropolitan's policy of removing metal from structures that were no longer in use, it is unlikely that intact water tanks or pipelines are extant.

As a part of the infrastructure necessary for aqueduct construction, the road segment is contributing to the significance of the CRA system under Criterion D of the National Register of Historic Places because of its potential to provide information about the water system infrastructure and how it was integrated into aqueduct construction. Because the road segment contributes to the significance of the CRA, the following mitigation measures from the 1999 MND would apply to the Modified Project:

**Preconstruction Surveys:** Prior to construction, Metropolitan will provide professional cultural resources managers with detailed construction plans and discuss actual survey activities with them. Together they will identify areas of potential ground disturbing activities. Such activities might include construction of water containment berms, spreading basins, access roads, well pads and pipelines. Archaeologists will then conduct a field inspection of unsurveyed parcels prior to initiation of construction activities. When cultural resources are identified, Metropolitan will evaluate the potential importance of each resource and assess the potential impacts of proposed Project activities on the site(s). In consultation with cultural resources specialists, Metropolitan will explore options to avoid impacts

where warranted. Such options might include rerouting access roads or pipelines or movement of above ground facilities. If necessary, Metropolitan will survey additional areas to avoid impacting cultural resources.

In some instances, avoidance may not be possible. In this situation, Metropolitan, in consultation with cultural resources professionals, will explore options to mitigate the impacts of construction activities on significant resources. While CEQA refers to archaeological excavation as a means of mitigation by data recovery, other measures might be proposed as well. These might include mapping of resources in their setting, photographing resources, archival documentation, and preparation of historic narratives. These, by necessity, would be site specific and would be tailored to the data present on each site, the proposed impacts to each site, and the need to address both construction related and scientifically related concerns. Any mitigation through data recovery would include provisions for professional curation of recovered artifacts and analysis of results with dissemination of results to the public and other professionals.

For the road segment that would be impacted by construction activities, archival research and detailed documentation of the road and associated features (including detailed mapping and photographic documentation) would mitigate any adverse impacts to the road. For the rest of the Modified Project, implementation of the above mitigation measures would mitigate impacts to historical and archaeological resources to less than significant with mitigation.

- V.b)** *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?*

See response to Section V.a above.

- V.c)** *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Source: Project Description; Riverside County Land Information System; USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Hayfield

The Modified Project site is located in an area designated by the Riverside County General Plan as Low Potential and Undetermined Potential for paleontological sensitivity. Areas of High Potential paleontological sensitivity occur within Hayfield Lake, which is outside the Modified Project site boundaries.

Construction of the Modified Project entails fine grading to create roads, well pads, and a construction staging area. Excavation of at least 36 inches deep would be required for installation of the conveyance pipelines. Installation of the wells would require drilling up to a depth of 1,300 feet. The well diameter would be approximately 30 inches wide.

Given the limited drilling and trenching that would occur as part of the Modified Project and the paleontological sensitivity classification of the Modified Project site, it is unlikely any paleontological resources would occur within the Modified Project site or be impacted by construction activities. Therefore, impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant.

**V.d) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?***

Source: *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey Letter Report for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Hayfield Groundwater Recovery Scheme* (Applied EarthWorks, Inc. 2008)

There are no recorded or known human remains within the Modified Project site. Additionally, field surveys did not identify any human remains or cemeteries. However, given the geology and hydrology in the area, it is possible that accumulated sediments could have buried cultural resources. Section V.b of the 1999 MND identified mitigation measures for impacts to cultural resources. Several of these measures, identified below, apply to this section of the Addendum.

...buried cultural material might surface during unmonitored construction and come to the attention of construction workers. Should buried resources be identified during construction, Metropolitan will halt construction in the vicinity and contact qualified cultural resources specialists. They will assist Metropolitan in preparing an Emergency Treatment Plan, in consultation with the SHPO.

If a discovery is a Native American burial or cemetery, Metropolitan will halt construction in the nearby area and notify cultural resource professionals and the county Coroner's office. Burial treatment will proceed in accordance with relevant California State Public Resources and Health and Public Safety Codes.

Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce any potential impacts to human remains to less than significant with mitigation.

#### 4.5 Geology and Soils

- VI.b)** *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Source: Project Description; Riverside County Land Information System

The Modified Project area is relatively flat with a slight grade change from approximately 1,327 feet amsl to 1,400 feet amsl. The Modified Project would entail grading for well pads, roads and the construction laydown area, installation of underground pipelines and overhead power lines, and installation of well pumps and appurtenant facilities.

Along existing roads, no topsoil would be removed as those areas would be asphalt, and any native material, if present, would be heavily disturbed. Topsoil would be removed from the remaining construction areas and stored within the Modified Project boundaries during construction. The amount of topsoil removed would be minimal and would be temporarily stored in a manner that would prevent erosion. The topsoil would be re-spaced over the disturbed construction area once construction was completed. These areas would be restored to original topographic conditions, which are generally flat. The well pads would ultimately be concrete and, therefore, not subject to erosion. Finally, the pipelines would be buried and would not change the topography of the Modified Project area. As a result, there would a less than significant impact related to soil erosion or loss of topsoil as a result of the Modified Project.

- VI.c)** *Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

Source: Riverside County Land Information System; *Draft Technical Memorandum Hayfield Groundwater Recovery Scheme* (Black & Veatch 2008)

The Modified Project site is located in an area considered susceptible to subsidence and within areas with low to moderate susceptibility to liquefaction. However, given the relatively flat topography, the minor grading that entails most of the proposed project, and the limited drilling and excavation that would occur for the wells and conveyance pipelines, the proposed project would not cause any landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. However, since pumping stored water would lower the groundwater table, the wells have been placed in a manner to prevent subsidence to nearby facilities. Therefore, impacts associated with the proposed project are less than significant.

#### 4.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

- VIII.c)** *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*

Source: Project Description; *Desert Tortoise Survey, Hayfield Lake Groundwater Recovery Project* (Metropolitan 2008)

Drainage in the Modified Project area consists of a typical desert braided wash and is generally from northwest to the southeast. The Modified Project does not traverse or alter any streams or rivers. The construction activities, including permanent facilities, would not change the topography or block or alter any drainage patterns in the area. Roads would continue to allow the drainage to flow southeast, and the conveyance pipelines would be buried and therefore would not impede drainage. Additionally, the well structures and appurtenant facilities would be small enough to allow water to bypass them unimpeded. Therefore, the Modified Project would have a less than significant impact on drainage.

- VIII.d)** *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

See response to Section VIII.c above.

Water pumped from the Hayfield basin will be discharged into the CRA conveyance system. Confirmatory water quality sampling and monitoring will be conducted prior to discharge into the CRA to ensure that pumped water will meet all applicable permit requirements. Therefore, water quality impacts associated with the project are less than significant.

#### 4.7 Mineral Resources

- X.a)** *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

Source: Project Description; Riverside County Land Information System; Riverside County General Plan, 2003, Figure OS-5 (Mineral Resources)

The State Mining and Geology Board has established Mineral Resources Zones (MRZ) using the following classifications:

MRZ-1: Areas where the available geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits or a minimal likelihood of significant mineral deposits.

MRZ-2a: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there are significant mineral deposits.

MRZ-2b: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there is a likelihood of significant mineral deposits.

MRZ-3a: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined.

MRZ-4: Areas where there is not enough information available to determine the presence or absence of mineral deposits.

The County of Riverside seeks to conserve areas identified as containing significant mineral deposits, which are areas designated as MRZ-2a and MRZ-2b (Riverside County General Plan 2003). The Modified Project site is designated MRZ-4, which is not defined as a significant resource area.

The Modified Project would be constructed on property owned by Metropolitan. This area has been designated and historically used for water storage and water facilities by Metropolitan and would continue to be used as such with the Modified Project. Any potential mineral resources that could occur within the project site would be minimally disturbed as construction impacts are limited to grading, shallow excavating, and narrow well development. Therefore, potential impacts associated with the Modified Project are less than significant.

#### 4.8 Noise

- XI.b)** *Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Source: Project Description; USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Hayfield; Riverside County Noise Ordinance No. 847

The closest residences occur within the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant village located approximately 250 feet north of the Modified Project site. These residences are owned by Metropolitan for housing for approximately 20 employees working at Metropolitan's Julian Hinds Pumping Plant and the families of the employees. The construction laydown area would be located within the footprint of the Julian Hinds

Pumping Plant, approximately 500 feet from the nearest pumping plant office and approximately 2,500 feet from the nearest residence.

Excavation for the conveyance pipelines would be shallow and narrow. Grading for the roads, well pads and construction laydown area would entail vegetation and topsoil removal, as well as the movement of native material to level the work area. These activities would create minimal groundborne vibration and noise and would be temporary in nature. Well development would require drilling at eight locations at least 2,500 feet from the village, pumping plant offices, and Interstate 10. This activity may create some groundborne vibration and noise. However, any noise generated from the Modified Project would be exempt from Riverside County Noise Ordinance No. 847 due to the nature of the project.

Operation of the wells may also generate some groundborne vibration and noise. However, these would be confined to a small area surrounding each well and would not extend beyond 100 feet from each well. Therefore, groundborne vibration and noise associated with operation of the wells would be undetectable. Additionally, as indicated earlier, any noise generated from the Modified Project would be exempt from Riverside County Noise Ordinance No. 847 due to the nature of the project. Therefore, impacts associated with the Modified Project are less than significant.

- XI.d)** *Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?*

Source: Project Description; USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Hayfield

The Modified Project would increase ambient noise levels in the project vicinity due to the operation of heavy construction equipment. However, the increase in noise levels would be temporary in nature and would be localized. The only receptors near the project site that could potentially be impacted by noise are the residences of the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant located approximately 250 feet from the conveyance pipelines and the offices of the plant located approximately 100 feet from the pipelines. As indicated earlier, well development would occur approximately 2,500 feet from the nearest residence. Residents and employees of the plant are accustomed to periodic and temporary increases in ambient noise levels due to operation and maintenance of the plant, the CRA and appurtenant facilities.

Operation of the wells would also result in periodic increases in ambient noise levels. However, the wells would be fitted with electronic pumps and would be located at least 2,500 feet from the village, pumping plant

office, and Interstate 10. Increased noise levels due to well operation would be undetectable at such a distance. As a result, the Modified Project would result in a less than significant impact on ambient noise levels.

- XI.e)** *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

Source: Project Description; Riverside County Land Information System; Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan Policy Document 2004, Maps CS-1 and DC-1

The Modified Project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport. The nearest airports to the Modified Project site are the Chiriaco Summit Airport, located approximately 2.5 miles away, and the Desert Center Airport, located approximately 17 miles away. Due to the distance of the Modified Project site from the Chiriaco Summit and Desert Center Airports, the Modified Project would have a less than significant impact on exposure of excessive noise levels on workers.

#### **4.9 Mandatory Findings of Significance**

- XVII.a)** *Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

The project has the potential to degrade the quality of small areas of existing habitats at the Modified Project site. The 1999 MND concluded that the larger Original Project would not substantially reduce the habitat of any fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Mitigation measures adopted as part of the Original Project are also incorporated into the Modified Project and will ensure that no significant impacts to wildlife or plant species or cultural resources would occur as a result of project implementation. The Modified Project is smaller in scope than the Original Project, and the same conclusions apply.

**XVII.b)** *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

The Modified Project does not have any cumulatively considerable impacts on the environment. The Modified Project site is located in an isolated desert area with limited past and no current or known future projects planned at this time. The proposed project will extract approximately 100,000 acre-feet of water previously placed into the underlying aquifer by Metropolitan’s water spreading operations from 2000 through 2004.

**XVII.c)** *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

The Modified Project has no environmental effects that will cause any adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. All appropriate safety practices in the construction and operational phases of the project will be implemented to ensure the safety of employees, visitors and residents of the Julian Hinds Pumping Plant. By complying with applicable codes and regulations and implementing the mitigation measures identified in the 1999 MND and this Addendum, there would be no adverse effects on human beings as a result of the Modified Project.

## 5.0 List of Preparers

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## 6.0 Conclusion

Section 15164(b) of the *Guidelines* states “An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred.”

The proposed modification to the Original Project would not result in a tangible change in the physical environment. As the Lead Agency, Metropolitan is issuing this Addendum in accordance with the *Guidelines* (Section 15164).

The Modified Project includes moving the location of the extraction wells from an area east of Hayfield Lake to an area along Hayfield Road, which is located west of Hayfield Lake. As in the 1999 MND, the Modified Project would require construction of extraction wells, conveyance pipelines from the wells to a common conveyance pipeline leading to the CRA, access roads to the wells, overhead power lines, and a construction laydown area. The 1999 MND planned on recovering approximately 500,000 to 1,000,000 acre-feet of stored water from the Hayfield Groundwater Basin. The Modified Project would reduce this amount to 100,000 acre-feet of stored water over a period of approximately 2 to 3 years. Finally, the 1999 MND anticipated construction impacts to occur within an area of approximately 25.5 acres, while the Modified Project reduces construction impacts to an area of approximately 23 acres, 17 of which are already disturbed.

Therefore, this action is not considered to: 1) constitute a substantial change in the project as originally proposed by Metropolitan; 2) lead to substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; or 3) constitute new information of substantial importance. Accordingly, an addendum to the 1999 MND was prepared as opposed to a subsequent environmental impact report.

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Signature

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Date

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Delaine W. Shane  
Printed Name

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Manager,  
Environmental Planning Team

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Title

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