



● **Board of Directors**
Engineering and Operations Committee

December 8, 2009 Board Meeting

7-5

Subject

Authorize the North Azusa Connection on the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District's Azusa Pipeline

Description

This action authorizes an agreement with Three Valleys Municipal Water District (Three Valleys) and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (San Gabriel District) to construct the North Azusa Connection on San Gabriel District's Devil Canyon – Azusa Pipeline (Azusa pipeline) to allow Three Valleys to take deliveries of Metropolitan water using Metropolitan's capacity rights in the Azusa pipeline.

Division IV, Chapter 7 of the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code gives the General Manager the authority to approve service connections on Metropolitan's distribution system and requires any service connection constructed for diversion of water from Metropolitan's distribution system to be owned, operated, maintained, and controlled by Metropolitan. Since the proposed connection that Three Valleys requests is not on Metropolitan's distribution system, the Board would need to approve construction of a connection by Three Valleys on San Gabriel District's Azusa pipeline for deliveries of Metropolitan water using Metropolitan's delivery rights.

Terms of the agreement include: (1) All costs associated with the construction of the connection are to be paid by Three Valleys; (2) Three Valleys would own and maintain the connection and San Gabriel District would operate the connection; (3) Three Valleys will be the lead agency for purposes of compliance with regulations implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); (4) Supplies delivered via this agreement shall be limited to untreated water purchased from Metropolitan and water purchased by Three Valleys shall be delivered and used solely by Three Valleys' member agencies or for groundwater spreading purposes; (5) Three Valleys' rights to deliveries under this agreement are subordinate to Metropolitan's rights and interruptible at Metropolitan's sole discretion; and (6) Three Valleys shall pay to Metropolitan the applicable rate for untreated water at the time of delivery, including applicable administrative fees imposed by Metropolitan.

Background

San Gabriel District is a State Water Contractor that serves the cities of Azusa, Monterey Park, Alhambra and Sierra Madre. San Gabriel District owns and operates the Azusa pipeline, which delivers its State Water Project (SWP) supplies from the Devil Canyon turnout on the East Branch of the SWP to the San Gabriel Valley for groundwater replenishment purposes. The Azusa pipeline parallels Metropolitan's Rialto Feeder pipeline for much of its right-of-way.

Metropolitan has capacity rights in the Azusa pipeline as part of an existing exchange agreement. Three Valleys would like access to Metropolitan's unused capacity rights within the pipeline, subject to Metropolitan's paramount rights to use this capacity when necessary for Metropolitan's operations. Three Valleys proposes to construct a connection on the Azusa pipeline for groundwater spreading and for delivery of Metropolitan's untreated water to the Covina Irrigating Company. Three Valleys would purchase untreated water for this connection solely from Metropolitan. The Covina Irrigating Company will treat the water and then deliver the treated water to Rowland Water District and Walnut Valley Water District, who are retail agencies of Three Valleys. The proposed capacity for the new connection is 20 cubic feet per second (cfs). The connection

would be in the city of Azusa, located near the San Gabriel District's and Covina Irrigating Company's pipelines. All costs associated with the construction of the connection are to be paid by Three Valleys.

Related information

In 1975, Metropolitan entered into an exchange agreement with San Gabriel District to deliver full service treated water to the city of Alhambra, a member agency of San Gabriel District, in exchange for capacity rights up to 55 cfs in the Azusa pipeline. Metropolitan has used its capacity rights to move water intermittently for spreading purposes, using the Azusa pipeline to meet spreading orders for Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and Three Valleys at the San Gabriel Canyon spreading grounds. Up to 55 cfs can be delivered in this manner.

In 2000, the Board approved, and Three Valleys constructed, a 20 cfs capacity service connection on the Azusa pipeline. The purpose of this service connection was to allow Three Valleys to spread Metropolitan replenishment water at the Live Oak spreading grounds, owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, using Metropolitan's capacity rights.

In 2006, the Board authorized Metropolitan to enter into a Joint Connections and Water Exchange Agreement with San Gabriel District, Three Valleys, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and the city of Sierra Madre. The purpose of this agreement was to provide for a 5.5 cfs emergency service connection for Sierra Madre on Metropolitan's Upper Feeder and to allow the construction of up to three 55 cfs connections on the Azusa pipeline (one connection for Three Valleys) to provide service to three treatment plants that would normally take water from Metropolitan's Rialto pipeline. The three connections on the Azusa pipeline would be used in the event that Metropolitan's Rialto pipeline was out of service. Construction of these service connections has not been completed at this time.

Attachment 1 illustrates the relative location of the facilities discussed in this letter.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code, Division IV, Chapter 7: Service Connections (Section 4700)

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code, Division IV, Section 4209: Contracts

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed action involves the funding, design, and installation of equipment within existing public facilities along with the construction of minor appurtenant structures with negligible or no expansion of use and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies under Class 1 and Class 3 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301 and 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that pursuant to CEQA, the proposed action qualifies under two Categorical Exemptions (Class 1, Section 15301 and Class 3, Section 15303 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination and authorize the construction of the North Azusa Connection by Three Valleys on San Gabriel District's Azusa pipeline for deliveries of Metropolitan water using Metropolitan's capacity rights.

Fiscal Impact: Full service treated water sales could be replaced by full service untreated sales.

Option #2

Do not authorize construction of the North Azusa Connection.

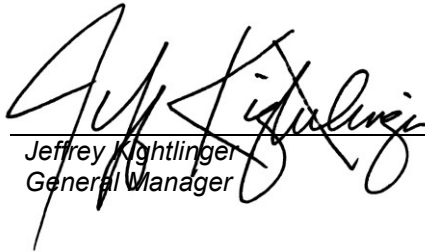
Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


James F. Green
Manager, Water System Operations

11/19/2009
Date


Jeffrey Nightlinger
General Manager

11/20/2009
Date

Attachment 1 – Location Map

BLA #6953

