



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

6/8/2010 Board Meeting

7-3

Subject

Approve dues for memberships in the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition, CalDesal, the California Municipal Utilities Association, and the California Special Districts Association

Description

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department head to join organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan, provided that new memberships with annual dues of \$3,000 or more are approved by the Board. Each department head may approve payment of future dues of any organization which the department head was authorized to join under this section or by the Board, so long as any increase does not exceed 10 percent of the previous annual dues or \$3,000, whichever is less.

Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE)

Located in Chicago, AWE is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to promote water efficient products and programs, and provides information and assistance on water conservation efforts to water utilities, water conservation professionals, planners, regulators and consumers. AWE develops water saving federal, state and local codes and standards; ensures efficient products are available, tested and labeled; coordinates with green building initiatives to institutionalize water efficiency; trains professionals and educates water users. Based on wholesale water deliveries, annual dues are \$25,000.

Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC)

CVSC is a nonprofit coalition formed in 2008 to develop salinity and nitrate management strategies in the Central Valley. The CVSC membership includes municipal wastewater agencies, agricultural commodity and food processor groups, and agricultural water quality coalitions. Metropolitan is a stakeholder by virtue of its interest in source water quality entering the Delta and the California Aqueduct. Annual membership dues are up to \$25,000.

CalDesal

CalDesal is a nonprofit organization formed by California public water agencies to support the development of seawater desalination facilities. The group promotes seawater desalination policy, authors and monitors legislation, and performs stakeholder outreach. Annual dues are \$5,000.

California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA)

CMUA has represented publicly owned water, gas and electric utilities throughout California since 1933 and is the only association which combines these utility services. Metropolitan has been a CMUA member since September 1946, and the Sacramento office works closely with CMUA staff. CMUA and its member electric utilities were actively engaged in the establishment, transition phases, operations and future of the California Independent System Operator (ISO) and Power Exchange (PX). These efforts related to the electrical industry are supported by a special assessment. Increased dues from \$83,432 in FY 2010/2011 to dues of \$94,248 in FY 2011/2012; an increase of \$10,816.

California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

CSDA is committed to educating policy leaders on the vital role special districts play in delivering public services to California citizens. In addition, CSDA bring to the forefront, issues of importance to local government agencies. Annual dues increased from \$3,000 in FY 2009 to \$4,088 in FY 2010.

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 Purpose

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because it involves continuing administrative activities (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which 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 per 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 General Manager to pay the above-listed expected membership dues/assessments.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$153,336

Business Analysis: AWE, CVSC, CalDesal, CMUA, and CSDA are strategic business partners in the water resources community.

Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to pay the above-listed expected membership dues/assessments.

Fiscal Impact: Savings up to \$153,336

Business Analysis: Loss of strategic business partners

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


 Linda Waade
 Deputy General Manager, External Affairs

5/24/2010
 Date


 Jeffrey Rightinger
 General Manager

5/25/2010
 Date