



● **Board of Directors**
Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

7/9/2013 Board Meeting

7-2

Subject

Authorize payment up to \$571,056 for support of the Colorado River Board and the Colorado River Authority of California for fiscal year 2013/14.

Executive Summary

Authorization is requested to make this year's annual payment for Metropolitan's continued participation in activities of the Colorado River Board (CRB) and the Colorado River Authority of California (Authority). The CRB was established in 1950 to protect the interests and rights of the State of California in the water and power resources of the Colorado River System. The Authority advances California's interests in Colorado River water and power through educational and informational campaigns. Metropolitan and five other members of the CRB make annual cost-sharing payments to the CRB and the Authority to fund their operations, studies, and special projects.

Details

Authorization is requested for the General Manager to pay Metropolitan's participation share in CRB functions and for the Authority's educational and informational campaigns. Metropolitan is one of six California water agencies that share these expenses. Both the CRB and the Authority help protect and advance Metropolitan's Colorado River interests.

A cost-sharing agreement, which governs payments to the CRB, is in effect through June 30, 2015. Under the cost-sharing arrangement, urban agencies pay half of the total costs and the agricultural agencies pay the other half. Metropolitan contributes 32 percent of the total costs; the remaining urban share of 18 percent is paid by the San Diego County Water Authority (10 percent) and the City of Los Angeles (8 percent).

Attachment 1 shows the cost-sharing percentages among the six agencies.

The amount requested is \$571,056, which is about \$68,574 less than the amount budgeted by Metropolitan for fiscal year (FY) 2013/14 for this payment.

Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee

The CRB provides the official representation for California before the United States and the other Basin states. The CRB engages in activities that protect the interests and rights of the state of California, and its agencies and citizens, in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. The CRB is funded entirely by six California agencies through the Six Agency Committee; no state funds are used. Each agency has a seat on the CRB, which also includes two public members appointed by the Governor, and representatives of the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Six Agency Committee is comprised of the same six California agencies. The agencies jointly provide funds to support CRB functions, technical studies, special projects and computer modeling and data inventory upgrades. In FY 2012/13, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee played key roles in:

- completing the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study (Basin Study) in December 2012, which studied long-term potential water demand and supply imbalances in the Colorado River Basin;
- participating in the binational discussions with Mexico toward the execution in November 2012, of Minute 319 to the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944; and
- contributing to weather modification projects in the three Upper Colorado River Basin states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; and initiating a study of the evapotranspiration of tamarisk (salt cedar) in an effort to estimate water losses.

In FY 2013/14, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee plan to continue to: advance implementation of the Basin Study; develop a long-term water management agreement under the auspices of Minute 319; contribute to weather modification projects in the Upper Colorado River basin; and manage completion of the study of tamarisk evapotranspiration. The CRB and Six Agency Committee have prepared a draft budget. Metropolitan's share of the total estimated FY 2013/14 budget is \$535,312.

Colorado River Authority of California

The Authority advances California's interests in the Colorado River by conducting educational and informational campaigns. In FY 2012/13, the Authority:

- led an inspection tour of the State Water Project and Bay/Delta system for the other six Basin states' representatives and technical staff; and
- shared costs of the Lower Basin states' participation in Minute 319.

In FY 2013/14, the Authority plans to lead an Upper Colorado River Basin facilities and projects inspection trip, and continue to interview key policy leaders on Colorado River issues and archive those interviews for historical documentation. Metropolitan's share of the total estimated FY 2013/14 budget is \$35,744.

Summary of Costs

Metropolitan's funding in FY 2012/13 and FY 2013/14 is summarized below.

Metropolitan Contributions

Fund	FY 2012/13	FY 2013/14 (est.)
Colorado River Board/Six Agency Committee	\$ 524,213	\$ 535,312
Colorado River Authority of California	\$ 23,136	\$ 35,744
Total	\$ 547,349	\$ 571,056

The increase for the CRB/Six Agency Committee is attributable to higher operating expenses and computer replacement. The increase for the Authority is attributable to additional meeting expenses and a planned inspection of Lower Basin facilities by Upper Basin states. Metropolitan has budgeted \$639,630 for participation on the CRB/Six Agency Committee and the Authority.

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.

Metropolitan Water District Act Section 126: Dissemination of Information (subject to a two-thirds vote requirement).

By Minute Item 40277, dated June 15, 1993, the Board authorized amending the agreement creating the Colorado River Association.

By Minute Item 46291, dated July 12, 2005, the Board authorized replacing the Colorado River Association with the Colorado River Joint Powers Authority.

By Minute Item 46310, dated July 12, 2005, the Board approved a revision to the Six Agency Committee funding arrangement under which Metropolitan's share is 32 percent.

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 (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 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 the provisions of 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 that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA and is categorically exempt and, by a two-thirds vote, authorize the General Manager to make payment of up to \$571,056 for the CRB/Six Agency Committee and Authority for FY 2013/14.

Fiscal Impact: Projected expenditures of up to \$571,056 from the FY 2013/14 budget.

Business Analysis: Provides continued representation of California in Colorado River matters by the CRB at present levels and continues educational and informational campaigns undertaken by the Authority

Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to make payment to the CRB/Six Agency Committee and the Authority for FY 2013/14.

Fiscal Impact: Savings of \$571,056.

Business Analysis: Will not provide for continued representation of California in Colorado River matters by the CRB at present levels. Would not provide funds for the Authority, which could result in cessation of educational and informational campaigns

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


 Deven N. Upadhyay
 Manager, Water Resource Management

6/19/2013
 Date


 Jeffrey Kightlinger
 General Manager

6/24/2013
 Date

Attachment 1 – Financial Pathways Funding Source

FINANCIAL PATHWAYS

Funding Source		
IID (Cost Share @ 28.75%) Imperial Irrigation District	CVWD (Cost Share @ 16.25%) Coachella Valley Water District	PVID (Cost Share @ 5.00%) Palo Verde Irrigation District
MWD (Cost Share @ 32.00%) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	SDCWA (Cost Share @ 10.00%) San Diego County Water Authority	City of LA (Cost Share @ 8.00%) City of Los Angeles (LADWP)

