



- Board of Directors
Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

12/10/2013 Board Meeting

8-2

Subject

Authorize (1) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement with the Department of Water Resources and participating State Water Project contractors, and (2) renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement with the State Water Project Contractors Authority

Executive Summary

Authority is requested to enter into two contracts to continue the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Municipal Water Quality Investigations (MWQI) Program. Under these agreements, Metropolitan benefits from: water quality monitoring of regulated constituents, forecasts of changing conditions that affect drinking water quality, and early warnings of water quality events. Data provided by this program assists in Metropolitan's operational decisions related to treatment processes. Metropolitan's share of the annual MWQI Program budget is up to \$2.1 million. The proposed agreements would enable the partner contractors to work closely with DWR to define the scope of work and budget.

Details

The MWQI Program monitors key locations above and within the Delta and along the California Aqueduct for salt, organic carbon, bromide, and other regulated constituents. Also, the program performs special water quality studies and models short-term and long-term water quality conditions. This information is posted on the DWR website and is readily available for treatment plant operators and managers. The program assists Metropolitan by providing:

- Access to real-time data that helps manage treatment processes, assess non-project pump-in proposals, and observe the impacts of water from storage programs; and,
- Long-term planning that includes development of tools that improve decision making related to State Water Project (SWP) operations, protection of Delta source waters, and the ability to meet future drinking water standards

The highly variable quality of SWP deliveries affects the operation of Metropolitan's system and the water treatment processes. Historical Delta export pumping patterns have been altered by environmental safeguards to protect fish in the Delta. These new pumping patterns affect water quality. Other events, such as levee breaks and island flooding, taste and odor producing algae, storm water inflows, oil pipeline breaks, and groundwater pump-ins may also affect water quality. Metropolitan's ability to meet drinking water standards and control treatment costs starts with source water quality.

The MWQI Program was established in 1985 and Metropolitan has participated since 1990. The current agreements expire December 31, 2013. Under the proposed agreement with DWR, the MWQI Program would continue through SWP contract payments to DWR and payments to the State Water Project Contractors Authority (SWPCA).

The 16 urban SWP contractors agreed to fund the MWQI Program based on the proportionate share of water as shown in Table A of their water supply contracts. The MWQI Program work will continue to be accomplished

through agreements with DWR and the SWPCA. Under the proposed MWQI agreement with DWR, the program would be funded through SWP contract payments (Statement of Charges) to DWR. Under the proposed MWQI agreement with the SWPCA, certain water quality related services would be expedited in support of DWR's MWQI Program. The SWPCA is an organization of State Water Contractors with the ability to contract with DWR to undertake specified projects and services.

The term of the program agreements is three years. The total annual cost of the MWQI program is \$3.1 million and Metropolitan's share is up to \$2.1 million. This represents no change from the prior three years. The proportionate share of cost for each contractor is shown on [Attachment 1](#).

Staff recommends entering into the proposed agreements to provide valuable water quality monitoring data at a cost savings compared to Metropolitan pursuing the same data without the cost sharing approach provided in these agreements.

Policy

Minute Item No. 48506, the Board, at its December 14, 2010, meeting, authorized entering into a renewed MWQI Agreement

Minute Item No. 49450, the Board, at its June 11, 2013, meeting, authorized payments up to \$832,025 to the SWPCA for FY 2013/14, which included MWQI payments to the SWPCA

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 categorically exempt and 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 categorically exempt and

- a. Authorize the General Manager to renew the 3-year MWQI agreement with DWR; and
- b. Authorize the General Manager to renew the 3-year MWQI agreement with the SWPCA with Metropolitan's total cost up to \$2.1 million annually for both agreements.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$2.1 million annually. Funds are included in the FY2013/2014 Operations and Maintenance Budget.

Business Analysis: Participation provides real-time water quality reporting and forecasting, and assists in Metropolitan's operational decisions related to water treatment processes.

Option #2

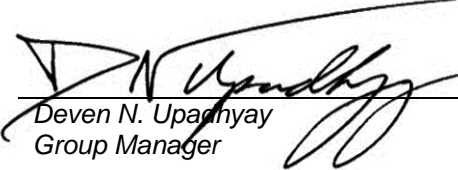
Direct staff to seek other avenues to acquire necessary water quality information.

Fiscal Impact: Amount of expenditure for alternative approach is unknown.

Business Analysis: To maintain the benefits of the program, it may be necessary for Metropolitan to invest its personnel or consultants to replace functions currently handled by DWR staff. Metropolitan's long-developed relationships with DWR and other participating contractors may be diminished.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


Deven N. Upadhyay
Group Manager

11/21/2013
Date


Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

11/25/2013
Date

**Attachment 1 – State Water Project Contractors That Are Expected
To Participate In the Municipal Water Quality Investigation Program**

Ref# wrm12627365

**State Water Project Contractors That Are Expected
To Participate In the Municipal Water Quality Investigation Program**

Participating SWP Contractor	Table A (acre-feet)	Cost Allocation (%)	Total MWQI Charge (\$)
Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Zone 7	80,619	2.84	88,000
Alameda County Water District	42,000	1.48	46,000
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency	144,844	5.11	158,000
Castaic Lake Water Agency	95,200	3.36	104,000
Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency	5,800	0.20	6,000
Kern County Water Agency	79,000	2.78	86,000
Mojave Water Agency	89,800	3.17	98,000
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	1,911,500	67.37	2,090,000
Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	29,025	1.02	32,000
Palmdale Water District	21,300	0.75	23,000
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	102,600	3.62	112,000
San Geronio Pass Water Agency	17,300	0.61	19,000
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	25,000	0.88	27,000
Santa Clara Valley Water District	100,000	3.53	109,000
Central Coast Water Authority	45,486	1.60	50,000
Solano County Water Agency	47,756	1.68	52,000
Total:	2,837,230	100	\$3,100,000