THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BOARD ACTION

- Board of Directors
  *Communications and Legislation Committee*

6/10/2014 Board Meeting

**8-8**

## Subject

Approve payment of increased dues for memberships with San Diego County Taxpayers Association, United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley, Valley Industry and Commerce Association, and new memberships with Western Coalition of Arid States and Los Angeles County Business Federation

## Executive Summary

Metropolitan maintains corporate memberships in numerous business and nonprofit organizations. These memberships provide Metropolitan access to various resources and programs and facilitate Metropolitan's engagement with the community through public forums. Joining new organizations and renewing memberships requires board approval if dues are greater than $3,000 or if dues increase by more than $3,000 or 10 percent. Staff recommends renewing membership and joining in the following organizations: San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) -$3,000, United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley (UCC) - $7,500, Valley Industry Commerce Association (VICA) - $10,000, Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS) - $3,000, and Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) - $25,000.

## Details

**Background:**

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department to join organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan, provided that new memberships with annual dues of $3000 or more must be approved by the Board. Existing memberships must be brought back to the Board for approval, if: (a) annual dues increase by 10 percent, or (b) the increase amounts to $3,000 or more.

The following organizations (for which Metropolitan currently maintains memberships) have increased their dues such that the amount to be paid by Metropolitan for renewal would exceed 10 percent of the previous annual dues or $3,000:

**INCREASED MEMBERSHIP:**

**San Diego County Taxpayers Association**

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposes unnecessary taxes and fees. The association's board of directors engages in public policy issues related to local, state and federal government, including water policy. Annual membership dues of the organization are $3,000. Metropolitan was offered a six-month trial membership and joined the association in January 2014. Staff recommends Metropolitan continue its membership with the San Diego County Taxpayers Association at the full-service level of $3,000 annually.

**United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley**

The United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley (UCC) is a business consortium representing 32 member chambers and business organizations, representing over 21,000 businesses and 387,000 employees. UCC has an active government affairs committee with meetings at multiple venues throughout the year where

legislators and staff are present. UCC has developed a new dues structure. Staff recommends that Metropolitan continues its' annual membership at the increased rate from $5,000 to $7,500.

**Valley Industry and Commerce Association**

The Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) is a business advocacy group with over 360 members throughout the greater San Fernando Valley. VICA travels to Washington D.C. and Sacramento throughout the year to lobby on policy issues, and VICA also hosts numerous events that offer opportunities to interact with elected officials at all levels of government. VICA has developed a new dues structure. Staff recommends that Metropolitan continues its' annual membership dues at the increased rate from $7,500 to $10,000.

**NEW MEMBERSHIPS:**

**Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)**

WESTCAS is an association of water and wastewater providers organized to encourage the development of adequate supplies of high quality water for those living in the arid regions of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon and Texas. WESTCAS provides members with a voice in Washington and in regional and state regulatory and legislative decision making. The organization also provides a vehicle for information exchange through meetings and publications. Annual membership in WESTCAS is $3,000. Staff recommends joining WESTCAS.

**Los Angeles County Business Federation**

The Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) is an alliance of business organizations that seeks to foster a stronger relationship between businesses and elected officials. Their members include 125 associations representing over 268,000 businesses and nearly 3 million employees in Southern California. Metropolitan has participated in BizFed through sponsoring events and speaking at programs. Staff recommends joining BizFed at a cost of $25,000.

## Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11202: Payment of Dues.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

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 pursuant to Section 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 authorize the General Manager to pay the above-listed expected membership dues/assessments as stated in the board letter.
**Fiscal Impact:** $48,500
**Business Analysis:** The above–referenced organizations are local and regional organizations that are actively engaged in infrastructure policy discussions including water resource issues. Memberships within these organizations and the others identified above allow Metropolitan the opportunity to provide regular input to the organizations and encourage their support for Metropolitan's policy objectives.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize the General Manager to pay the above-listed expected membership dues/assessments as stated in the board letter.

**Fiscal Impact: $0**

**Business Analysis:** Without memberships in these organizations, Metropolitan will not have the same opportunity to engage with these regional groups and inform them about important water policy issues.

## Staff Recommendation

Option #1

5/28/2014

*Dee Zinke* *Date*
*Deputy General Manager, External Affairs*

5/28/2014

*Jeffrey Kightlinger* *Date*
*General Manager*

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