



- Board of Directors  
*Communications and Legislation Committee*

10/13/2015 Board Meeting

---

**8-5**

---

## **Subject**

Approve payment of increased dues for membership with Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

---

## **Executive Summary**

Metropolitan maintains corporate memberships in numerous business and nonprofit organizations. These memberships provide Metropolitan access to various resources and programs, and facilitate engagement with the community through public forums. Renewing memberships requires board approval if annual dues increase by more than \$3,000 or 10 percent. Staff recommends upgrading Metropolitan's membership in the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation to the Executive Committee Member level with annual dues of \$12,500.

---

## **Details**

Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department head to join and maintain memberships in organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan. Existing memberships must be brought to the Board for approval if annual dues increase by more than 10 percent or \$3,000, whichever amount is less.

One organization in which Metropolitan currently has a membership has increased its dues by an amount that requires board approval, as a result of a change in membership level.

### **INCREASED MEMBERSHIP LEVEL AND DUES:**

#### Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is one of the region's premier economic development organizations. Working with business leaders, government agencies, education members and partners, the LAEDC provides economic research, analysis and strategic assistance to attract, retain and grow businesses and jobs, address public policy issues, and improve the quality of life in the region. Membership in the LAEDC provides Metropolitan the opportunity to work directly with top business leaders and public agency officials on water policy and related issues.

For 2015/16, Metropolitan has been invited to serve on the LAEDC's executive board, a visible and important leadership position that reflects the importance of water management issues to the region. The role provides greater opportunities to address and help inform public policy issues and work directly with others in the business community and all levels of government. Membership dues for the Executive Committee Member level are \$12,500 per year. Metropolitan has previously maintained a general membership in LAEDC with annual dues of \$2,500 per year. The current annual dues for this base level membership are now \$5,000 per year. Staff recommends upgrading the current membership to the Executive Committee Member level with the dues of \$12,500.

## Policy

---

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

### California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

---

#### CEQA determination for Option #1:

Funding for the proposed memberships is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378 (b)(4) of the State CEQA guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). For future, and not yet known, proposed projects associated with this membership, the appropriate lead agencies will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA and is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Sections 15378 (b)(4) and 15061(b)(3) 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 defined as a project under CEQA and is not subject to CEQA, and

Authorize the General Manager to change Metropolitan's membership level in the LAEDC and pay the additional membership dues at a total rate of \$12,500 per year.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$12,500 per year, an increase of \$10,000 per year over previous dues.

**Business Analysis:** The above-referenced organization is a regional organization that is actively engaged in policy discussions including water resource issues. Membership and a leadership role in this organization will allow Metropolitan the opportunity to provide regular input to the organization and encourage support for Metropolitan's policy objectives.

### Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to pay the higher Executive Committee Member dues as stated in the board letter.

**Fiscal Impact:** Dues will remain at the current membership level.

**Business Analysis:** Without Executive Committee membership in this organization, Metropolitan will not have the same opportunity to engage with the region's leaders and inform them about important policy issues.

## Staff Recommendation

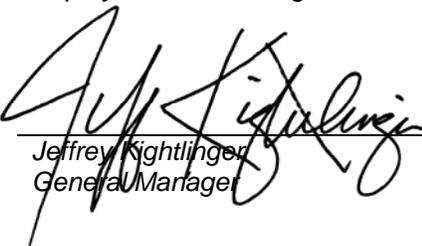
---

Option #1

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dee Zinke  
 Deputy General Manager, External Affairs

10/1/2015

Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeffrey Kightlinger  
 General Manager

10/1/2015

Date

Ref#12639664