



Authorize Continuing Participation in Pilot Program to Fund Water Use Efficiency Measures for the Colorado River

Water Planning & Stewardship Committee

Item 8-4

May 9, 2016

Background

- July 2014 Pilot Program Agreement
 - Up to \$2 million each from MWD, CAWCD, Denver Water, and SNWA
 - Over \$3 million from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- May 2015 Agreement with Upper Colorado River Commission



Status of Pilot Program

- 16 agreements to conserve over 65,000 AF
 - Land fallowing
 - Foregoing irrigation for a period of time
 - Conversion to drip irrigation
 - Deficit irrigation
 - Recycled-water injection
 - Reduction in delivery of water
- Additional projects to conserve 8,000 AF would obligate remaining municipal agencies' funds



Status of Pilot Program

- Reclamation received additional FY 2016 funding
 - \$3.5 million for Lower Basin
 - \$1 million for Upper Basin
- Reclamation seeking cost sharing funds
- Responses to Reclamation's request for proposals for Lower Basin projects due April 22
 - Proposals received to conserve over 73,000 AF

Proposal

- Cost sharing planned
 - \$1 million from CAWCD
 - \$1 million from SNWA
- Cost sharing proposed
 - Up to \$1 million from MWD
 - Potentially reduced by up to \$500,000 from California Six Agency Committee

Benefits of Proposal

- Users compensated for implementing water conserving measures
- Conserved water accrues to benefit of Colorado River system

Board Options

Option #1

- Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action is not subject to CEQA, and:
 - Authorize the General Manager to continue to participate in the pilot program; and
 - Approve payment of up to an additional \$1 million for partially funding the program

Board Options

Option #2

- Do not authorize the General Manager to provide up to an additional \$1 million for a pilot program

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

