



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

1/8/2019 Board Meeting

7-6

Subject

Authorize entering into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

In July 2018, Metropolitan issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA Program). The FSA Program funds technical studies and pilot tests targeting barriers to future production of recycled water, stormwater, seawater desalination, and groundwater resources.

As described in an information letter to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee in December 2018, Metropolitan received 17 proposals from 12 lead member agencies with a total funding request of \$4.36 million. A technical review panel evaluated the proposals and developed a collective rating. Based on the panel findings, staff recommends funding 15 of the highest ranked proposals.

Staff will implement agreements for 10 proposals with funding requests under the General Manager's contracting authority of up to \$250,000. Five proposals with funding requests over \$250,000 require Board approval. The purpose of this letter is to seek Board authorization to enter into one of the agreements with the Eastern Municipal Water District (Eastern MWD) for the Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project.

Details

Background

Metropolitan issued an RFP for FSA Program study proposals to the member agencies on July 6, 2018. A technical review panel performed independent evaluations of each proposal. Based on the panel evaluation, staff recommended 15 of the 17 proposals for funding. The details of the RFP process and recommendations were provided to the Board in December 2018 in an informational letter to the Water Planning & Stewardship Committee.

Funding Agreement

Five of the recommended proposals requested funding above the General Manager's contracting authority of \$250,000. These proposals met all of the FSA Program criteria. This action addresses one of the selected proposals which was submitted by Eastern MWD for a funding amount not-to-exceed \$500,000. The title of the project is, "Purified Water Replenishment Concentration Pilot Project." The study will test closed-circuit reverse osmosis (CCRO) as the primary reverse osmosis process for indirect potable reuse at the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility. CCRO has the potential to enhance recovery and minimize brine from advanced water treatment plants.

Staff requests board authorization to enter into an FSA Program funding agreement for a not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000 with the Eastern MWD for the Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities.

By Minute Item 48449 dated October 12, 2010, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and the 2010 Integrated Resources Plan Update.

By Minute Item 49381 dated April 9, 2013, the Board adopted the CEQA determination, approved the proposed Foundational Actions Funding Program, and directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals.

By Minute Item 50358 dated January 12, 2016, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and the 2015 Integrated Resources Plan Update.

By Minute Item 51168 dated April 10, 2018, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and approved an approach to issue a Request for Proposals to fund member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA Determination for Option #1:

The proposed action to enter into an agreement for the recommended proposal is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposal consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These activities may be strictly for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies as a Class 6 Categorical Exemption (Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA Determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Authorize staff to enter into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the Eastern MWD under the FSA Program for the Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project.

Fiscal Impact: Metropolitan would invest up to \$500,000 in the proposed study under the FSA Program over a two year period.

Business Analysis: By providing funding for member agency studies under the FSA Program, Metropolitan will remove barriers to future water resource production and increase regional water supply reliability.

Option #2

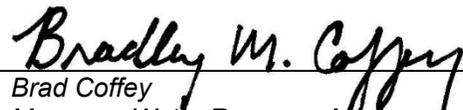
Do not authorize staff to enter into a not-to-exceed \$500,000 funding agreement with the Eastern MWD under the FSA Program for the Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project.

Fiscal Impact: No impact. Metropolitan would miss leveraging \$650,000 of non-Metropolitan funds for the study.

Business Analysis: Metropolitan would potentially delay an opportunity to remove a barrier to local resource development.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1


Brad Coffey
Manager, Water Resource Management

12/21/2018

Date


Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

12/26/2018

Date

Ref# wrm12669087