



- Board of Directors
Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

6/11/2019 Board Meeting

8-2

Subject

Authorize payment of up to \$696,000 for support of the Colorado River Board and Colorado River Authority for fiscal year 2019/20; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Authorization is requested for the General Manager to make this year's annual payment for Metropolitan's continued participation in activities of the Colorado River Board (CRB) and the Colorado River Authority of California (Authority). The CRB was established in 1937 to protect the interests and rights of the state of California with respect to the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. The Authority advances California's interests in Colorado River water and power through educational and informational campaigns. Metropolitan and five other members of the CRB make annual cost-sharing payments to the CRB and the Authority to fund their operations, studies, and special projects.

Details

Background

Authorization is requested for the General Manager to pay Metropolitan's participation share in CRB functions and the Authority's educational and informational campaigns. Metropolitan is one of six California water agencies that share these expenses. Both the CRB and the Authority help protect and advance Metropolitan's Colorado River interests.

A cost-sharing agreement, which governs payments to the CRB, is in effect until June 30, 2020. Under the cost-sharing arrangement, urban agencies pay half of the total costs and agricultural agencies pay the other half. Metropolitan contributes 32 percent of the total costs; the remaining urban share of 18 percent is paid by the San Diego County Water Authority (10 percent) and the City of Los Angeles (8 percent).

Attachment 1 shows the cost-sharing percentages among the six agencies.

The Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee

The CRB provides the official representation for California before the United States and the other Colorado River Basin states. The CRB engages in activities that protect the interests and rights of the state of California, and its agencies and citizens, in the water and power resources of the Colorado River system. Six California agencies entirely fund the CRB through the Six Agency Committee; no State funding occurs. Each agency has a seat on the CRB, which also includes two public members appointed by the Governor and representatives of the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Six Agency Committee consists of six California agencies. The agencies jointly provide funds to support CRB functions, technical studies, special projects, and computer modeling.

In fiscal year (FY) 2018/19, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee played key roles in:

- Representing California’s interests associated with the binational implementation of Minute No. 323 with Mexico, including participation in various work groups;
- Providing California representation in completion of the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans (DCP), and reconciling operational issues of the U.S. Lower Basin DCP and the Mexican binational water scarcity contingency plan;
- Contributing funds to supplement weather modification activities in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming under a newly executed Basin States programmatic funding agreement;
- Initiating a tamarisk management study to determine resources, schedule, and budget needed to implement a large-scale riparian restoration project in the Lower Colorado River Basin; and
- Participating in ongoing Colorado River management programs and activities, including water use and accounting, salinity control, and environmental resources management.

In FY 2019/20, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee anticipate continuing participation in the programs described above, plus the following key activities:

- Participating in the ongoing implementation of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program;
- Supporting and cost-sharing funding of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program and the monitoring of other ongoing water quality programs and activities; and
- Providing annual financial support to the U.S. Geological Survey to provide effective stream-gaging stations in the Lower Colorado Basin.

The total funding request for the CRB and Six Agency Committee is \$2,175,000. Metropolitan’s proportionate share of the FY 2019/20 funding request is \$696,000.

Colorado River Authority of California

The Authority advances California’s interests in the Colorado River by conducting educational and informational campaigns for the CRB and others relating to California’s interests in the Colorado River Basin. In FY 2018/19, the Authority:

- Conducted a field inspection of the Yuma area to highlight Lower Colorado and international water operations, and salinity management issues related to Title I of the Salinity Control Act;
- Completed two oral history interviews of retired Colorado River water experts; and
- Executed a funding agreement to provide funding for the design of the Colorado River basin traveling museum exhibition.

In FY 2019/20, the Authority anticipates the following key activities:

- Initiating planning for a Fall 2020 field inspection of the Upper Basin; and
- Continuing the collection of oral histories and cost-sharing funding of the traveling museum project.

No funding is requested for the Authority, as funds are being used from a prior assessment.

The following table compares the FY 2019/20 funding request with the FY 2018/19 request.

Fund	FY 2018/19	FY 2019-20 (est.)
Colorado River Board /Six Agency Committee	\$ 688,000	696,000
Colorado River Authority of California	\$ 20,800	0
Total	\$ 708,800	696,000

The increase for the CRB/Six Agency Committee is attributable primarily to general operating expenses.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11102: Payment of Dues.

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11103: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes.

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Water District Act Section 126: Dissemination of Information (subject to a two-thirds vote requirement).

By Minute Item 40277, dated June 15, 1993, the Board authorized amending the May 13, 1947 agreement to provide for appointment of alternate representatives on the Colorado River Association Six Agency Committee.

By Minute Item 46291, dated July 12, 2005, the Board authorized agreement to create the Colorado River Joint Powers Authority.

By Minute Item 46310, dated July 12, 2005, the Board approved the new funding arrangement for the Colorado River Board based on the proposed cost-sharing percentage.

By Minute Item 50166, dated June 9, 2015, the Board approved executing the Six Agency Committee agreement's amendment to extend the cost-sharing formula through June 30, 2020.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) because the proposed action will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and involves continuing administrative activities (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not defined as a project under 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).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

By a two-thirds vote, authorize the General Manager to make payment of up to \$696,000 for support of the Colorado River Board and Colorado River Authority for FY 2019/20.

Fiscal Impact: Expend budgeted funds of up to \$696,000 from the FY 2019/20 budget.

Business Analysis: Provides continued representation of California in Colorado River matters by the Colorado River Board at present levels and continues educational and informational campaigns undertaken by the Authority

Option #2

Do not authorize the General Manager to make payment to the Colorado River Board and Colorado River Authority for FY 2019/20.

Fiscal Impact: Savings of up to \$696,000

Business Analysis: Will not provide for continued representation of California in Colorado River matters by the CRB at present levels and would not provide funds for the Authority, which could result in cessation of educational and informational campaigns

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Brad Coffey
Manager, Water Resource Management

5/30/2019

Date



Jeffrey Nightlinger
General Manager

5/30/2019

Date

Attachment 1 – Cost-Sharing Summary

Ref# wrm12667283

C o s t - S h a r i n g S u m m a r y

F u n d i n g S o u r c e		
<p>IID (Cost Share @ 28.75%) Imperial Irrigation District</p>	<p>CVWD (Cost Share @ 16.25%) Coachella Valley Water District</p>	<p>PVID (Cost Share @ 5.00%) Palo Verde Irrigation District</p>
<p>MWD (Cost Share @ 32.00%) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California</p>	<p>SDCWA (Cost Share @ 10.00%) San Diego County Water Authority</p>	<p>City of LA (Cost Share @ 8.00%) City of Los Angeles (LADWP)</p>

