



- Board of Directors  
*Communications and Legislation Committee*

9/10/2019 Board Meeting

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7-1

## Subject

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Approve Metropolitan's membership in the California African American Water Education Foundation for three years and authorize payment of \$25,000 per year for a total of \$75,000; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

## Executive Summary

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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. New memberships require board approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000. Staff recommends Metropolitan join the California African American Water Education Foundation for an annual fee of \$25,000 for a period of three years and a total commitment of \$75,000.

## Details

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Metropolitan's Administrative Code Section 11202 authorizes each department head to join and maintain memberships in organizations whose purposes serve the interests of Metropolitan. Membership must be brought to the Board for approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000.

The California African American Water Education Foundation (CAAWEF) is a California nonprofit water education organization based in Sacramento. It is being established to educate and more fully engage the African American community on water issues and policies, and serve as a resource on water policy discussions affecting both the urban and rural areas of the state. The priorities of the CAAWEF include education, leadership development and recruiting the next generation of water leaders.

According to CAAWEF, the organization and its participants will strive to address policy decisions and practical solutions for water reliability, water supply, water quality, resource management, regulations, technology, and the environment. As a resource for current and prospective members of the California African American water community, CAAWEF intends to strengthen public outreach, ensure active engagement and encourage broader representation and leadership in the water industry by developing and recruiting individuals for staff, trades, management, and board positions.

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous business and nonprofit organizations, which provide access to various resources and enable the district to help educate and engage various segments of the community on water issues aligned with the Metropolitan's mission. In addition to providing opportunities for expanded education and outreach, CAAWEF may also serve as a resource for the district's employee recruitment and training programs.

CAAWEF has invited Metropolitan to join as a founding member of the organization, entitling the district to a seat on the organization's board of directors, which will afford Metropolitan the opportunity to provide input on the CAAWEF's programs and initiatives. Dues for founding members are set at \$25,000, for a three-year period for a total commitment of \$75,000.

Staff recommends Metropolitan join CAAWEF as a founding member for three years and authorize payment of \$25,000 per year for a total of \$75,000.

## Policy

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11102: Payment of Dues

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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### CEQA determination(s) for Options #1 and #2:

Funding for the proposed membership 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 (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and 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.

### Option #3:

None required

## Board Options

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### Option #1

Approve Metropolitan's membership in the California African American Water Education Foundation for three years and authorize payment of dues for \$25,000 per year, with a three-year total amount of \$75,000.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds in the amount of \$25,000 per for three years would be paid for membership in the CAAWEF.

**Business Analysis:** Provides support for an organization that furthers Metropolitan's purposes and interests in disseminating information about water issues and developing the next generation of water leaders for a three-year period.

### Option #2

Approve Metropolitan's membership in the CAAWEF for one year and authorize the payment of dues in the amount of \$25,000.

**Fiscal Impact:** Funds in the amount of \$25,000 would be paid for a one-year membership in the CAAWEF.

**Business Analysis:** Provides support for an organization that furthers Metropolitan's purposes and interests in disseminating information about water issues and developing the next generation of water leaders for a one-year period.

### Option #3

Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in CAAWEF.

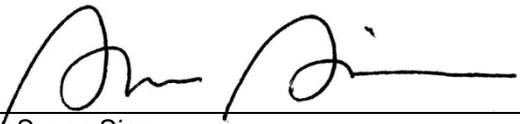
**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Business Analysis:** Metropolitan will forego the opportunity to provide support for a California organization that furthers its interests in disseminating information about water issues and developing the next generation of water leaders.

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

  
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Susan Sims  
External Affairs, Manager

8/17/2019  
Date

  
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Jeffrey Kightlinger  
General Manager

8/28/2019  
Date

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