



Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

March 17, 2009

From: Suja Lowenthal, Second District 

Subject: Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Monthly Update

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file report on the actions taken at the Metropolitan Water District Board meeting held on March 10, 2009.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

I wish to bring the following actions (attached) to the Council's attention.

**Report for
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
March 10, 2009**

PALO VERDE FALLOWING PROGRAM

The board authorized an emergency short-term fallowing program within the Palo Verde Irrigation District and spending up to \$23 million to fund the program. Set to begin this summer, the short-term program would allow fallowing of up to 15 percent of PVID land irrigated with Priority 1 Colorado River water. This would add as much as 13,350 acres to the nearly 26,000 acres currently being fallowed under the long-term program. Metropolitan would pay \$1,700 per acre of land fallowed, for a cost of approximately \$340 per acre-foot. (Agenda Item 8-6)

YUBA COUNTY WATER TRANSFER

The board authorized an amendment to its agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water transfer supplies from the Yuba County Water Agency of up to 17,500 acre-feet for 2009 only, at a cost of \$250 per acre-foot. (Agenda Item 8-2)

NEW DIRECTOR

The board inducted new director Peter Kavounas, representing the city of Glendale. He succeeds James M. Rez who had served as the city's representative on Metropolitan's board since August 1988. Kavounas serves as Glendale's assistant general manager and previously served as the city's water services administrator. He also spent 17 years working for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and sits on the Castaic Lake Water Agency board of directors. (Agenda Item 5-C)

VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS, BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

Chairman Timothy F. Brick named Fern Steiner of the San Diego County Water Authority as vice chair of the board, and assigned Keith Lewinger as vice chair of the Business and Finance Committee, which the board approved. The board also confirmed Director Brick's reappointment as the city of Pasadena's representative for a term ending December 31, 2012, and presented a 15-year service pin to Director Bill Wright of Torrance. (Agenda Items 5E, 5F and 5G)

CENTRAL BASIN SETTLEMENT

The board approved terms of a settlement of *Central Basin Municipal Water District v. Metropolitan Water District*, which challenged Metropolitan's water supply allocation plan. Future items regarding the supply allocation plan will be brought back to the board for discussion. (Agenda Item 8-4)

TUJUNGA WELLFIELD PROJECT

The board authorized entering into an agreement for a maximum of \$8.5 million with Siemens Water Technologies Corporation for the Tujunga Wellfield Groundwater Recovery Project, which will increase Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Tujunga Wellfield production by 24,000 to 36,000 acre-feet over a two-year period, thereby reducing demands on Metropolitan for imported water. LADWP will reimburse Metropolitan fully for this project, including all costs incurred under this agreement. (Agenda Item 8-1)

OTHER ACTION:

In other action, the board:

- Received a plaque recognizing the Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center as a platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building. The center is one of 79 platinum projects in the world, and the first such project designed as a museum facility. (Agenda Item 4)
- Authorized entering into a second lease amendment to extend the existing Sacramento office lease term for an additional 96 months with Senator Building Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (Agenda Item 7-1)
- Appropriated \$850,000 and authorized two Jensen Water Treatment Plant rehabilitation projects (Agenda Item 7-2)
- Appropriated \$155,000 and authorized preliminary design of the Combined Filter Outlet Chemical Trench at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant (Agenda Item 7-3)
- Appropriated \$1.59 million and authorized final design and construction of a dechlorination system at the Chemical Unloading Facility (Agenda Item 7-4)
- Adopted a resolution supporting Metropolitan's \$300,000 grant funding application for agricultural conservation incentives under the Bureau of Reclamation's Water for America Challenge Grant Program and approved inclusion of agricultural improvements as eligible elements under Metropolitan's Water Savings Performance Program (Agenda Item 7-5)
- Authorized a \$300,000 increase in the maximum amount payable under a professional services contract with Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. to a total of \$2.925 million for electric utility legal services (Agenda Item 7-6)
- Authorized contracts with six law firms for special bond counsel and four firms for co-special bond counsel services for the period ending Dec. 31, 2011 (Agenda Item 8-3)
- Expressed support and authorized co-sponsorship for AB 1366 (Feuer, D-Los Angeles) – Residential Self-Regenerating Water Softeners (Agenda Item 8-5)
- Authorized an increase in the contract with Morrison & Foerster LLP from \$100,000 to a new maximum of \$1.5 million for legal services for Bay-Delta Endangered Species Act cases (Agenda Item 8-7)