



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

6/12/2018 Board Meeting

7-3 Revised 8-4

Subject

Adopt CEQA determination and authorize payment of up to \$708,800 for support of the Colorado River Board and Colorado River Authority for fiscal year 2018/19

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 in 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

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 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. The CRB is funded entirely by six California agencies through the Six Agency Committee; no state funds are used. 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 is comprised of six California agencies. The agencies jointly provide funds to support CRB functions, technical studies, special projects and computer modeling.

In FY 2017/18, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee played key roles in:

- completing the United States and Mexico binational Minute 323, ancillary agreements, and representing the United States on various work groups;
- assisting Metropolitan in reaching agreement with Bureau of Reclamation and the Basin States to get approval of Metropolitan’s modified 2017 Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Creation Plan to create and store up to 398,000 AF during 2017;
- resolving Palo Verde Irrigation District water accounting issues associated with the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, resulting in an upward adjustment of 71,991 acre-feet of Extraordinary Conservation and System Efficiency ICS for Metropolitan;
- contributing funds and entering into a joint funding agreement for water resources investigations of the Colorado River at six gaging stations with the U.S. Geological Survey;
- contributing funds to supplement weather modification activities in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; and
- participating in ongoing Colorado River management programs and activities, including water use and accounting, salinity control and environmental resources management.

In FY 2018/19, the CRB and the Six Agency Committee anticipate continuing participation in several of the programs described above, plus the following key activities:

- finalizing both Lower and Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plans (DCP);
- contributing funds to supplement weather modification activities in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming under a newly executed programmatic funding agreement; and
- initiating a tamarisk management study to outline resources, timelines and estimated budgets needed to implement a large-scale riparian restoration project in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

The total funding request for the CRB and Six Agency Committee is \$2,150,000. Metropolitan’s proportionate share of the FY 2018/19 funding request is \$688,000.

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 2017/18, the Authority hosted field inspections of Upper Basin DCP programs and of the Oroville dam site to better understand the background of events leading up to the spillway deterioration and emergency response.

In FY 2018/19 the Authority anticipates the following key activities:

- planning and conducting a field inspection of the Yuma area and parts of Mexico to highlight water operations and salinity management issues related to Title I of the Salinity Control Act;
- continuing the collection and archival of the California Colorado River Oral History Project; and
- participating and cost-share funding of the Colorado River Museum Project.

The total funding request for the Authority is \$65,000. Metropolitan’s share of the FY 2018/19 funding request is \$20,800. The following table compares the FY 2018/19 funding request with the FY 2017/18 request.

Fund	FY 2017/18	FY 2018-19 (est.)
Colorado River Board /Six Agency Committee	\$ 672,000	688,000
Colorado River Authority of California	\$ 16,000	20,800
Total	\$ 688,000	708,800

The increase for the CRB/Six Agency Committee is attributable primarily to the initiation of a vegetation management study. The increase for the Authority is attributable to the addition of research for a museum exhibit.

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 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 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 a new funding arrangement for the Colorado River Board based on a 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).

The CEQA determination is: Determine that the proposed action is not defined as a project under Public Resources Code Section 21065 and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15378(b)(4), and is not subject to CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action is not defined as a project and is not subject to CEQA and, by a two-thirds vote,

Authorize the General Manager to make payment of up to \$708,800 for the Colorado River Board/Six Agency Committee and Authority for FY 2018/19.

Fiscal Impact: Projected expenditures of up to \$708,800 from the FY 2018/19 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/Six Agency Committee and the Authority for FY 2018/19.

Fiscal Impact: Savings of up to \$708,800

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

5/23/2018
Date


Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

5/29/2018
Date

Attachment 1 – Cost Sharing Summary

Ref# wrm12655962

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>

