



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

10/10/2023 Board Meeting

8-4

Subject

Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The Climate Mayors is a bipartisan, peer-to-peer non-governmental organization network that has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors who demonstrate climate leadership. The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group has 54 members in states within the Colorado River Basin and will collaborate with water users to promote turf replacement, water reuse, and recycling programs that will help bring the supply and use of the river into balance. A financial sponsorship of \$50,000 establishes Metropolitan as a partner to support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and further demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Details

Background

Forging a sustainable future for the Colorado River in the face of climate change requires all water users to reduce water demands. Over the past two decades, Metropolitan has responded to declining conditions on the river through the investment of billions of dollars, with hard-earned partnerships to lower demands, and through purchases and agreements with agricultural users in the Imperial and Palo Verde valleys. In 2022, Metropolitan joined with public water providers in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins as signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding to implement comprehensive and innovative water conservation programs, initiatives, policies, and actions within their communities.

Founded in 2014, Climate Mayors has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors to advance projects that demonstrate climate leadership and promote meaningful actions in their communities. The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group, which represents western mayors whose cities rely on the Colorado River for water supply, is a fiscally sponsored project of the Resources Legacy Fund. Metropolitan will work in partnership with the organization to support the mayors in achieving the following goals:

- Encourage mayors to pass resolutions and/or adopt policy (i.e., model ordinances) through a phased approach to reduce water consumption and increase reuse and recycling.
- Identify and promote conservation and reuse best practices through fact sheets and virtual roundtables for mayors, sustainability directors, and public works directors.
- Uplift successful programs and policy adoption through social and traditional media.
- Provide talking points and other communication tools to support mayors with outreach to property owners and residents.
- Reduce non-functional turf grass as long-term water savings; map non-functional turf and conduct targeted outreach to property owners on turf replacement program; pass ordinance that bans watering non-functional turf with potable water on commercial, institutional, and industrial properties; pass ordinances

that require replacement of non-functional turf by a date certain and prohibiting installation of non-functional turf on all new development.

The project budget is \$150,000. Metropolitan's share of the budget is \$50,000, which will be funded by the Conservation Credits Program budget. In addition to the \$50,000 sponsorship from Metropolitan, the organization will be seeking funding commitments from additional urban water providers in the Colorado River Basin.

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 44813, dated March 12, 2002, the Board adopted the proposed policy principles regarding global climate change and water resources, as set forth in the letter signed by the Chief Executive Officer on February 27, 2002.

By Minute Item 50358, dated January 12, 2016, the Board adopted the 2015 Integrated Water Resources Plan Update, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-3 board letter.

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 it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making, which will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (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 the creation of government funding mechanisms or 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

Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000

Fiscal Impact: \$50,000. Metropolitan's share of the budget is \$50,000, which will be funded by the Conservation Credits Program budget.

Business Analysis: Allows Metropolitan to visibly participate and provide sponsorship of climate resilient conservation and adaptation projects that will support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Option #2

Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Will not allow Metropolitan to visibly participate and provide sponsorship of climate resilient conservation and adaptation projects that will support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Staff Recommendation

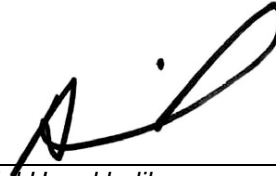
Option #1



Liz Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and
Innovation Officer

10/4/2023

Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

10/4/2023

Date

Ref #sri12694333