



- **Board of Directors**
Legislation and Communications Committee

5/12/2026 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Approve Metropolitan's extended annual membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation and annual dues payment of \$68,000 for two additional interest groups, Dam Safety and Asset Management in Generation; the General Manager determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous business and nonprofit organizations. These memberships provide Metropolitan access to various resources and programs to promote the successful performance of Metropolitan's mission. Extending Metropolitan's membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation (CEATI) would provide Metropolitan's managerial and technical staff access to a significant library of operational and technical research in the areas of asset management in generation and dam safety. Extended membership in CEATI would also allow Metropolitan to influence the direction of future research.

Memberships require board approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000. Staff recommends extending Metropolitan's participation in CEATI for an annual membership fee of \$68,000.

Timing and Urgency

Membership will be effective following board approval on execution of the membership agreement. CEATI membership will directly benefit ongoing Metropolitan dam safety and asset management-related strategic efforts.

Proposed Action(s)/Recommendation(s) and Options

Option #1

Approve Metropolitan's extended annual membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation (CEATI) and annual dues payment of \$68,000 for two additional interest groups, Dam Safety and Asset Management.

Fiscal Impact: Funds of \$68,000 annually would be paid for membership in CEATI. These funds are included in the 2026/27 annual budget and will be included in annual budgets going forward.

Business Analysis: CEATI membership will allow Metropolitan, with a small staff in electrical planning, engineering, operations, and asset management, to extend its knowledge base and enable Metropolitan to address electrical industry and asset management and dam safety challenges more cost-effectively.

Option #2

Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in CEATI.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Metropolitan will forego the opportunity to participate in a unique organization that would provide support for Metropolitan's strategic goals in facing the impact of climate change, meeting clean energy targets, improving dam safety, and managing our aging infrastructure.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities; personnel-related actions; and/or general policy and procedure making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5)).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

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

Founded in 1891 as part of the Canadian Electricity Association, CEATI has been an organization since 2008 dedicated to providing access to energy technology research through a well-established global network of over 200 utility owners across five continents. CEATI members include multiple large utilities, including Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the California Department of Water Resources. Member utilities have access to technical resources and expertise, including a library of over 2,000 reports and guidance documents, consultations with technical advisors, webinars, conferences, workshops, and on-demand access to colleagues from peer utility members.

The CEATI program brings together experts to collaborate and advance the utility industry by developing real-time solutions for day-to-day problems. CEATI membership benefits are primarily:

- Practical, real-time solutions
- Planning strategies
- Technical training
- Knowledge transfer
- Peer-to-peer interactions
- Collaborative research projects
- Collaborative leveraged efforts to increase return on investment of research dollars

CEATI members work with program advisors to research practical solutions to optimize operations and influence planning. The utility-only peer groups in CEATI identify emerging technologies, address knowledge gaps, and deliver quick turnarounds to immediate issues in a safe, user-driven space. Most uniquely, CEATI members can capitalize on the ability to split project costs with other organizations, funding highly leveraged research projects, guidance documents, and training tools.

During this period of accelerated electricity industry transformation, Metropolitan faces tremendous challenges from the impacts of climate change, resiliency and sustainability goals, aging infrastructure, new and emerging

technologies, and increasingly stringent reliability standard requirements. CEATI membership will allow an organization such as Metropolitan, with relatively small electrical planning, engineering, and operations staff, to extend its knowledge base and face industry challenges cost-effectively.

CEATI membership would also provide Metropolitan staff with access to research materials and members' experience in asset management practices. CEATI members include entities with large water infrastructure and hydropower assets, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, BC Hydro, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Many CEATI members have mature asset management programs, and CEATI membership would allow Metropolitan to leverage other members' experience in this field.

Metropolitan has been a participant in CEATI's Electric Transmission Planning and Operations interest group since 2024 and has received considerable benefits. A prime example would be access to CEATI's extensive library of hydroelectric generation topics and access to numerous major hydroelectric generation owners, which allowed Metropolitan staff to quickly and confidently assess the impact of pumped storage operations on Diamond Valley Lake.

Metropolitan's extended membership would now include two additional key interest areas, Asset Management and Dam Safety, to contribute to meeting Metropolitan's critical long-term strategic planning and operational goals.

Staff recommends that Metropolitan join CEATI as a participating member for the Dam Safety Interest Group and the Asset Management in Generation Interest Group with an annual dues payment of \$68,000.

Project Milestone

Following board approval, Metropolitan will execute a membership agreement with CEATI. The benefits of CEATI membership will commence immediately upon execution of the membership agreement and will renew annually.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities



Keith Nobriga
Integrated Operations Planning & Support
Services Group Manager

4/29/2026
Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

4/29/2026
Date