



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

1/14/2025 Board Meeting

8-1

Subject

Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling \$390,000; authorize Metropolitan's non-federal cost share of \$130,000; and authorize the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

In October 2023, Metropolitan applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) fiscal year 2023 (FY23) WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program. Metropolitan submitted a grant application to develop publicly accessible interoperable data sets for flow and temperature for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta). This project is supported by the Revised Bay-Delta Policy Objectives and GM Business Plan FY 2024/2025 (Strategic Priority #3, outcome 3.2.6). On August 5, 2024, Metropolitan was notified that its submitted application is being considered for award of funds. To proceed in the agreement process, Metropolitan must obtain a resolution from the Board of Directors committing Metropolitan to the financial and contractual obligations associated with a financial assistance award. If approved, this action would adopt a resolution (**Attachment 1**) supporting Metropolitan's commitment to its financial and contractual obligations. This action also authorizes the General Manager to accept up to \$390,000 in grant funding and enter a contract with Reclamation for the WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Grants Program for FY23, subject to General Counsel approval. If authorized, Metropolitan would contribute the non-federal cost share of \$130,000 from the Bay-Delta Sciences program budget; this cost share amount will be derived from an existing budgeted program (\$90,000) and budgeted in-kind staff time (\$40,000).

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

Staff Recommendation: Option #1

Option #1

Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling \$390,000; authorize Metropolitan's non-federal cost share of \$130,000; and authorize the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval.

Fiscal Impact: The addition of \$390,000 in grant funds to existing Metropolitan funding would require Metropolitan to commit to a non-federal cost share of \$130,000. This cost share amount is from existing Metropolitan funding in the Bay-Delta Sciences budgeted program (\$90,000) and in-kind staff time (\$40,000), both of which are included in the current biennium budget.

Business Analysis: Grant funding will allow Metropolitan to leverage existing Metropolitan funding appropriated for the development of publicly accessible interoperable data sets for flow and temperature for the Delta as non-federal cost share to expedite the work and increase the amount of data collected and analyzed. This work advances the Revised Bay-Delta Policy Objectives through partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation to improve flow and temperature data used in modeling processes that support comprehensive solutions to decision-making of water and habitat management in the Delta. These datasets are necessary to explore flexible operation and water management actions and promote innovative and multi-benefit solutions.

Option #2

Do not support or accept grant funding.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Without the grant funds, Metropolitan would incur increased costs to implement the work.

Alternatives Considered

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 8121: General Authority of the General Manager to Enter into Contracts

By Minute 53012, dated October 11, 2022, the Board adopted the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies.

General Manager Business Plan FY 2024-2025 (Strategic Priority #3, outcome 3.2.6)

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Not applicable

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed actions are exempt from CEQA because they involve funding for basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes or as part of a study leading to an action that a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15306.)

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Details and Background

Background

Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program provides a framework for federal leadership and assistance to stretch and secure water supplies for future generations in support of Reclamation's priorities identified in Presidential Executive Order (E.O.) 14008.

As an overview of the Reclamation grant priorities, the grant will provide funding for applied science projects to develop or improve hydrologic information, water management tools, modeling and forecasting capabilities, and improve nature-based solution decisions. Results from these projects will be used by water managers to increase water supply reliability, provide flexibility in water operations, and improve water management.

The proposed project will improve water management by providing better access to flow and temperature data and at a finer resolution. For example, daily flow and temperature data can better model flow operations and allow for an evaluation of operational effects on fish and wildlife, resulting in more efficient actions. Accessible and interoperable flow and temperature data are also critical for water management planning, and these data sets enable and improve modellable climate change scenarios.

Required Resolution

The WaterSMART program requires a board resolution supporting the grant proposal prior to the execution of a contract with Reclamation. The Board resolution documents Metropolitan's commitment to the financial and contract obligations associated with accepting grant funds, authorizes the General Manager to accept funding, delegates authority to the General Manager to enter into a contract with Reclamation, recognizes that Metropolitan is capable of meeting the 25 percent cost share amount, and commits Metropolitan to work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines. The resolutions do not obligate Metropolitan to accept funding. Metropolitan has the discretion to accept or decline potential funding prior to an agreement being executed.

	1/2/2025
_____ Nina E. Hawk Chief of Bay-Delta Resources/Group Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives	Date
	1/2/2025
_____ Deven Upadhyay Interim General Manager	Date

Attachment 1 – Resolution of the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in Support of its Proposal for Funding Under The WaterSMART: Applied Sciences For Interoperable Flow And Temperature Data For Salmonid Restoration Scenarios

Ref# eo12700365

RESOLUTION _____

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE WATERSMART: APPLIED SCIENCES FOR INTEROPERABLE FLOW AND TEMPERATURE DATA FOR SALMONID RESTORATION SCENARIOS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is requesting proposals for applied science projects from the WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Grants for fiscal year 2023.

WHEREAS, the submittal of a proposal for grant funding by Metropolitan has been determined to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Sections 15378 (b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Board) that the Board supports the proposal for “Interoperable Flow and Temperature Data for Salmonid Restoration Scenarios under Reclamation’s WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Grants for FY 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan’s Board authorizes Metropolitan’s General Manager to accept federal grant funding of up to \$390,000 and authorizes contribution of the non-federal cost share of \$130,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan’s Board delegates legal authority to Metropolitan’s General Manager to enter into an agreement with Reclamation, subject to the approval of the General Counsel, relevant to receipt of the requested WaterSMART grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan is capable of providing the 25 percent cost share specified in the funding plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Metropolitan will work with Reclamation to meet established program deadlines.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at its meeting held January 14, 2025.

Secretary of the Board of Directors
of The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California