



Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Update on Metropolitan/AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program

Item 6b
April 12, 2022

Background



About the Program

- Board authorized in April 2019
- Program size:
 - Storage capacity of 280,000 AF
 - Put/take capability of 70,000 AFY
 - Doubles existing direct pumpback
- Agreement term: 2019 - 2037
 - 20-year no cost option to extend



Program Benefits



Reliability

- Improves water supply reliability during dry years
- Provides emergency reliability to SWP Dependent Areas downstream of Edmonston Pumping Plant
- Could provide reliability to West side Member Agencies through LA Aqueduct



Operational Flexibility

- Provides greater operational flexibility to help meet demands



Partnership

- Strengthens relationship with a key State Water Contractor



Cost Competitive

- Unit cost is competitive to other groundwater banking programs

Program Costs



- Capital costs of up to \$131 M
- Recovery usage fee of \$100/AF; no fee to store
 - Escalated annually
- O&M and site power costs
- Estimated unit cost of \$320/AF in 2019

How the Program Works

Water from East Branch of California Aqueduct

Water piped to recharge basins to store in Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin

Water pumped from groundwater wells and returned to CA Aqueduct for Metropolitan use



Where We Are Today

- Provided \$25 million to-date
 - Largest expenditures expected in FY2023 & FY2024
- Four pilot recovery wells successfully constructed
- Turn-in/out structure and next phase of wells under construction
- On schedule to commence operation in 2023 (recharge) and 2025 (recovery)



Potential Changes

- Potential increases in cost
 - Off-site electrical costs not included in original estimate
 - Hydraulic uncertainty
 - Inflation higher than anticipated in original estimate
- Evaluating options to minimize cost increases while maintaining performance
- Future discussion with Board
 - Options and next steps
 - Request authorization for additional funding, if needed

Extraordinary Drought Operation



What is it?

- Operating new HDWB wells to pump in water to CA Aqueduct from existing storage account



How much water?

- About 500 AF/month



How much does it cost?

- Estimated additional costs of \$ 2.5 million
- Costs include design, installation, power, staff



How soon?

- AVEK to obtain temporary pump-in agreement from DWR
- Water as early as this summer

Next Steps

- Continue to meet with AVEK
 - Monthly and as needed
- Monitor progress and potential changes
 - Cost and schedule
- Provide updates to Board on project progress

