



- Board of Directors
Communications and Legislation Committee

8/17/2021 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the U.S. Water Alliance and authorize payment of \$18,500, and approve Metropolitan's annual membership in Water Education for Latino Leaders and authorize payment of \$25,000; 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, programs and facilitate engagement with the community through public forums. Memberships require board approval if annual dues are greater than \$10,000. Staff recommends Metropolitan join the U.S. Water Alliance for an annual fee of \$18,500. Staff also recommends membership with Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) for an annual fee of \$25,000.

Details

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 are greater than \$10,000.

The U.S. Water Alliance (Alliance) is a national membership organization based in Oakland that advances policies and programs to build a sustainable water future for all. Through a One Water movement, the Alliance educates the public about the value of water and accelerates policies and programs that effectively manage water resources to help secure a safe, reliable water supply for generations to come.

The Alliance provides collaborative platforms, national dialogues, and coalition-building initiatives that align diverse stakeholders to solutions addressing crucial water challenges. Members participate in high-visibility national education and advocacy events, such as Infrastructure Week and Imagine a Day Without Water. The Alliance supports its members as they implement One Water solutions through targeted task forces, working groups, and learning exchanges addressing top-of-mind issues such as water equity, affordability, financial resilience, workforce development, watershed partnerships, and climate change.

WELL is a California nonprofit water education organization based in Los Angeles. WELL's mission is to educate Latino Leaders on water policies to promote timely and equitable actions that support healthy communities and a resilient environment for all Californians. The organization has a nine-year track record in educating California's elected officials on state water policy and informing the community on pressing water issues through annual conferences, regional workshops, webinars, monthly newsletters, and fellowship programs.

In the past, Metropolitan has been an active sponsor of WELL conferences and individual events. WELL has launched a membership program to expand educational efforts by partnering with other organizations with similar goals and values. Becoming a partner will enable Metropolitan to support the organization's education programs for Latino Leaders working to develop effective and inclusive solutions to California's water challenges. Membership at this level allows for sponsor benefits and full access to all of WELL's annual programming, including panelist and key speaker opportunities at public events. Benefits also include elevated coordination with the organization as it works to reach and engage with Southern California's diverse communities.

Metropolitan maintains corporate membership in numerous business and nonprofit organizations, which provides access to various resources and enables Metropolitan to help inform and engage various segments of the community on water issues aligned with Metropolitan's mission.

Metropolitan has been invited as a member of both organizations, which will afford the opportunity to participate in and provide input on programs and initiatives available locally and statewide.

Staff recommends Metropolitan join U.S. Water Alliance as a CORE Member and authorize annual dues payment of \$18,500. Staff also recommends Metropolitan join Water Education for Latino Leaders as an Associate Member Platinum level and authorize annual dues payment of \$25,000.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11102: Payment of Dues

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determinations for Option #1 and #2:

Funding for the proposed membership is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378 (b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA (Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines). For future, and not yet known, proposed projects associated with this membership, the appropriate lead agencies will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations.

CEQA determination for Option #3:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the U.S. Water Alliance and authorize payment of dues for \$18,500, and approve Metropolitan's annual membership in Water Education for Latino Leaders and authorize payment of dues for \$25,000.

Fiscal Impact: Funds in the amount of \$18,500 annually would be paid for membership in U.S. Water Alliance, and \$25,000 annually would be paid for membership in Water Education for Latino Leaders. The funds are budgeted in External Affairs' FY 2021/22 board-approved budget.

Business Analysis: Provides support for organizations that further Metropolitan's purposes and interests in disseminating information about water issues and the next generation of water leaders.

Option #2

Approve Metropolitan's membership in the U.S. Water Alliance and Water Education for Latino Leaders for one year and authorize payment of dues at a reduced level.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Provides support for organizations that further Metropolitan's purposes and interests in disseminating information about water issues and developing the next generation of water leaders.

Option #3


Do not approve Metropolitan's membership in U.S. Water Alliance and/or Water Education for Latino Leaders.

Fiscal Impact: None


Business Analysis: Metropolitan will forego the opportunity to provide support for organizations that further its interests in disseminating information about water issues and developing the next generation of water leaders.

Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Sue Sims
External Affairs Manager
8/2/2021
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager
8/4/2021
Date

Ref# ea12677547