



Report!

Board of Directors Summary for **February 7, 2001**

Report! is prepared by the Community Involvement Department for all interested individuals. This brief summary of selected items from Eastern Municipal Water District Board of Directors' meetings is distributed after each meeting. Please circulate it to others having an interest. For more information, call 909/928-3777, ext. 4226; or FAX: 909/928-6160.

Work Session

The Board recognized several employees for 10 years of service: **Socorro Carlos**, Customer Service Representative II; **Kevin Gooch**, Utility Worker II; **Stephanie Harris**, Executive Assistant; **Mari Lee**, Executive Assistant, and **Kathy Salcido**, Administrative Assistant II.

Two related matters dealt with the California Department of Water Resources. In one, the Board adopted a resolution authorizing submitting an application for a feasibility study grant to develop groundwater storage facilities. DWR administers \$200 million in funding under the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Proposition 13). EMWD estimates a project cost of about \$400,000, with cost sharing likely through cooperation with local agencies and private groundwater producers in the Hemet/San Jacinto area. If granted, funds would be used for activities prior to actual construction. In the other matter, the general manager was directed to execute a memorandum of understanding with DWR to work cooperatively to promote conjunctive use projects and programs in the Upper San Jacinto River basins. Final execution of the MOU is contingent upon support from the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto and from Lake Hemet MWD.

Regarding desalination, the Board approved funding the Ethanac Road Desalter Well and McLaughlin Road Menifee Desalter Transmission Pipeline. Total project costs, including site acquisition and permits, design and construction are estimated at \$2.1 million. This pipeline would connect with an upcoming South Perris transmission pipeline that would then connect with the Menifee Desalter. This portion of the project will be financed from Service Area No. 00 General District Restricted Water Facilities Fund, and is subject to reimbursement from the state revolving loan program or from a pending certificates of participation bond issue.

The board approved and authorized an administrative award of contract for transmission system valve improvements (Spec. No. 809W). Five valves would be installed at key locations to minimize the service area impacted by pipeline shutdowns, decrease the amount of water lost during dewatering and will provide operational flexibility during emergencies. The total estimated project cost is \$539,100, and will be financed from Service Area nos. 41 and 42 System Betterment and Replacement Funds. In addition, district staff will install three other valves in the Perris area.

The board approved an agreement with Albert A. Webb Associates for \$68,770 for design to eliminate sewer bottlenecks. Three locations in Moreno Valley and one in San Jacinto are undersized and experience excessive flows, also known as surcharging. Total project costs for all problem locations are estimated at \$869,600. This project will be financed from Service Area No. 31 (Hemet/San Jacinto) and Service Area No. 32 (Moreno Valley).

Dan McGivney, Senior Air Quality Compliance Analyst, made a presentation on regulations affecting fleet vehicles and other engines. Stricter regulations by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and other agencies require EMWD to revise its policies for buying and operating certain equipment that will reduce air pollution, compared with current technology. Because of the potential higher costs involved for newer technology, Dan is investigating possible outside funding programs and will make recommendations for a comprehensive strategy. As part of this evolving strategy, EMWD recently began participating with the Clean Cities Coalition, an alliance that seeks to save money through mutual benefit programs. Some of these could include sharing expenses and operation of alternative fuel stations, vehicle and equipment buying programs, etc.

Charles Rathbone, Director of Finance, presented the board with the status of various restricted funds totaling \$263,131,000 as of Dec. 31, 2000:

RESTRICTED FUNDS: \$188,946,000
Restricted Operating Bond Covenant Fund, Restricted New Construction Fund, Debt Service Reserve Fund for COPs, Restricted General Obligation Bond Fund, Restricted 1993 COP Construction Fund and Encumbered Projects
RESERVES: \$64,138,000
Water Rate Stabilization Reserve, Readiness-to-serve Reserve, Operational Debt Service Reserve, Research & Development Reserve, Capital Replacement Reserve, Replacement and System Betterment Construction Reserve
TRUST FUNDS/OTHER: \$10,047,000
Restricted Assessment District Funds, Employee Vacation and Sick Leave Trust Funds, General Liability Reserve, Workers Compensation Reserve

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