



MWD

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Ethics Office

December 31, 2007

Dear Friends,

This is the quarterly report of The Metropolitan Water District Ethics Office from October 1 through December 31, 2007.

Recently, two concerns were expressed regarding the sectarian nature of some Invocations at the beginning of Board of Director meetings. The expressed concerns claim that invoking "God" is sectarian and thus disallowed in an invocation at a governmental meeting. It is the opinion of the General Manager's Office, the General Counsel's Office as well as the Ethics Office that the concerns are without merit. Over time, the invocations offered at Metropolitan Board of Director meetings have exhibited a pluralistic approach, with some invoking God, others the Creator, and some taking a secular humanistic approach, invoking the decency and character of those gathered for the day. Review of other governmental bodies shows that our guidelines and welcoming attitude to a variety of foundations for inspiration are consistent with those of the California Senate and the United States Senate as well.

Also, during this period, the Ethics Office worked with the General Counsel to create policies regarding relationships in the workplace and created a draft policy regarding romantic and sexual relationships between supervisors and subordinates.

Fifteen questions and eleven concerns were logged during this period. The issues covered include conflicts of interest/commitment (1); customer relations (5); discounts (1); favoritism (2); gifts (5); misuses of MWD resources (2); outside employment (6); nepotism (1); and policy issues (3).

Sincerely,

Deni Elliott
Ethics Officer