



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

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BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE PROVIDES METROPOLITAN WITH INSIGHT, RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FUTURE DEMANDS Metropolitan's Board of Directors to review findings

A report from a Blue Ribbon Committee of more than 20 of Southern California's corporate, community and academic leaders that outlines proposed models, strategies and approaches for the coming half-century of water challenges was received today by Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors.

The committee was chaired by Robert Simonds, who served as a city of Los Angeles representative on Metropolitan's board from 2004 to 2006.

"This Blue Ribbon Committee has provided a valuable service for Metropolitan by looking far beyond the current horizon to a very different world we may face in 2060, and suggesting steps we can consider today to continue to meet future water supply and reliability demands," said Metropolitan board Chairman John V. Foley.

"I want to thank and acknowledge the members of the committee for their commitment and efforts over the past 15 months in providing this important insight and feedback into Metropolitan's ongoing planning efforts and policy discussions," Foley said.

The committee reviewed developing new water options for Southern California; energy for the future; economic development and new technologies; financial stability; workforce; and external and internal communications functions.

"The committee's analysis, recommendations and strategies to help Metropolitan and its member agencies meet their long range water needs was a fascinating and valuable exercise," said committee Chair Simonds.

"From our perspective, as external participants, we commend former Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick for his acumen to understand the critical importance of looking at Metropolitan's current successes and challenges, and using this knowledge as well as the

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committee's expertise in specific areas to forecast and develop approaches to help ensure Metropolitan meets the region's water needs over the next 50 years," Simonds said.

At the board meeting, Chairman Foley announced his plans to appoint a special board committee to work with staff to evaluate the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations.

"I want to acknowledge Mr. Simonds for his tireless leadership in this effort, and thank Director Brick for his role in convening this panel of outside experts to advise Metropolitan on these extremely important water planning policies, objectives and programs," Foley continued. "Given the uncertainties and the challenges ahead, we cannot take reliability for granted and we must remain open to new and fresh ideas."

The committee's efforts were assisted and facilitated by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.

Joining Simonds as members of the committee were Grame Barty of the Australian Trade Commission; Ruben Barrales of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce; Carol S. Carmichael of the California Institute of Technology; Yoram Cohen of the University of California, Los Angeles; Mike D'Antuono of the National Construction Alliance (Operating Engineers/Carpenters); Lucy Dunn of the Orange County Business Council; Cecilia Estolano, partner, ELP Advisors, LLP; Mildred Garcia of California State University, Dominguez Hills; Lawrence Geraty, president emeritus, La Sierra University; Gerald R. Gewe, water industry professional; John R. Hanna of Hanna & Scott; Bob Hertzberg, former speaker of the California State Assembly (2000-02), partner/vice chair, Mayer Brown, LLP and co-founder/director of G24 Innovations Ltd.; John Lormon of Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Felicia Marcus of the Natural Resources Defense Council; Cynthia McClain Hill of Strategic Counsel PLC; Sunne Wright McPeak of the California Emerging Technology Fund; Julie Meier-Wright of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.; Terry O'Day of Environment Now; William Patzert of the California Institute of Technology's NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Mark Pisano of the University of Southern California; Betsy Rieke, a water resources consultant; Sherry Simpson-Dean of the United Nations Association of Pasadena; Gary Toebben of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Brad Udall of the Western Water Assessment NOAA Earth Science Research Laboratory; Robert Wilkinson of the

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University of California, Santa Barbara; and Lance Williams of the Los Angeles chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The District imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.