

DATE ISSUED: May 3, 2000

REPORT NO. 00-96

ATTENTION: Natural Resources & Culture Committee  
Agenda of May 10, 2000

SUBJECT: Agreement Between the Ramona Municipal Water District and the City of San Diego for Water Exchange and Water Transportation

### SUMMARY

Issue - Should the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement with the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) regarding the exchange and transportation of water from the City of San Diego's Sutherland Reservoir?

Manager's Recommendation - Authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement for the exchange and transportation of water from Sutherland Reservoir.

Other Recommendations - None.

Fiscal Impact - None with this action. However, City will continue to avoid transit losses which currently amount to savings of up \$75,000 per year. RMWD will also pay for its proportionate share for use of City facilities under this agreement.

### BACKGROUND

The City and RMWD have been operating, per an existing agreement dated March 3, 1971, on a year to year basis, for the exchange and transportation of water in the City's Sutherland Reservoir. RMWD has a connection from the City's Sutherland-San Vicente Pipeline which allows them to receive raw water deliveries from the City's Sutherland Reservoir to supply their Bargar Water Treatment Plant. In exchange, the City receives an equal amount of water directly from San Diego County Water Authority (CWA). This allows RMWD to avoid expensive pumping costs associated with receiving deliveries directly from CWA. This exchange benefits the City by avoiding transmission losses in the 4-mile open creek to San Vicente Reservoir and by providing for operation and maintenance cost sharing with RMWD on the use of City facilities. The City and RMWD have negotiated a new agreement which is mutually beneficial to both parties and which allows for an extension of this water exchange and transportation. The negotiated agreement will continue to maximize the use of local water supplies, while enhancing water supply reliability to both parties through improved efficiencies.

### DISCUSSION

The main conditions of the proposed agreement are as follows:

RMWD may request the City to reserve water in the City's Sutherland Reservoir for their use during the year. In exchange for such reserved water, the City will receive equal credit at the prevailing imported raw water rate through CWA's monthly water bill. Such RMWD reserved water shall be reduced by proportional evaporation and seepage losses and shall be subject to storage costs payable to the City.

RMWD may also request to purchase water in Sutherland Reservoir from the City at the prevailing CWA raw water rate. Such owned water will be subject to a storage cost and will be subject to proportional evaporation and seepage losses. Also, this RMWD owned water would be subject to spills (water loss over the spillway) prior to any City spills in Sutherland Reservoir.

RMWD may request up to 2,500 acre-feet per year of combined owned and reserved water from the City in Sutherland Reservoir. Through this exchange, the City will save on transmission losses, which average \$75,000 per year.

In order to make deliveries of owned and reserved water from Sutherland to RMWD, the City's Sutherland-San Vicente Pipeline must be utilized. For such use of City facilities, RMWD shall compensate the City for its operation and maintenance costs associated with making deliveries to RMWD.

RMWD may, at its sole cost and expense and upon City review and approval, make improvements to the reservoir outlet works to improve the flexibility of withdrawing water from different reservoir levels and thereby selecting better water quality.

The agreement negotiated was developed to detail all anticipated aspects associated with joint use of facilities. The agreement was negotiated in a spirit of cooperation in an effort to ensure benefits to both agencies. The City benefits through avoided transmission losses and RMWD benefits through avoided pumping costs.

#### ALTERNATIVE

Do not finalize the agreement with the Ramona Municipal Water District.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Larry Gardner  
Water Department Director

Approved: Frank Belock, Jr.  
Acting Deputy City Manager

GARDNER/MDS