



DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS

PARKING DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

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SUITE 202  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2877

916-449-5354

July 17, 1990

Budget and Finance/Transportation  
and Community Development Committees

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: PETITIONS TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD TO  
EXPAND THE AUTHORIZED PLACE OF USE OF WATER DIVERTED UNDER  
THE CITY'S FOUR AMERICAN RIVER WATER ENTITLEMENTS**

**SUMMARY**

Petitions to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have been prepared to expand the Authorized Place of Use (POU) of water diverted under the City's four American River water entitlements. Authorization is requested to file these petitions with the SWRCB.

**BACKGROUND**

The City's five water right permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), one for Sacramento River water and four for American River water, together with its 1957 contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), entitle the City to the following maximum annual amounts of surface water (in acre feet) from the Sacramento and American Rivers:

Sacramento River	81,800
American River	<u>245,000</u>
Total	326,800

Of this amount, 15,000 acre feet of American River water is committed for the use of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, outside of the American River water POU. The City has until the year 2030 to build up its beneficial use of the American River entitlements.

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The currently Authorized POU, in which the City is entitled to use Sacramento River water, includes the territory within the City boundaries, as they may change from time to time. The currently Authorized POU of American River water includes an area roughly equivalent to the current City boundary plus unincorporated land to the east within the County, a total of about 79,500 acres under two of the four permits and a total of about 96,000 acres under the other two. A map depicting the City boundary and the 96,000 acre boundary is attached for reference.

The City currently provides water service within the City limits and a small area within the Fruitridge corridor, an area of approximately 64,000 acres. In Fiscal Year 1989/90, approximately 115,000 acre feet of water was delivered within this area, or about 35 percent of the City's ultimate entitlements. Arcade Water District diverts an additional 1,800 + \- acre feet of water under the City's American River entitlements to serve its customers within the authorized American River water POU.

Past estimates, by various parties, have indicated that the ultimate water needs within the City's authorized water rights POU are somewhat less than the entitlement amount. On the other hand, the County of Sacramento, and many water purveyors within the County, have insufficient water to meet their projected future needs and, in some cases, even their present needs. Groundwater is being overdrafted in some areas of the County (and it has been for a long time). The County, and some of the other area water purveyors, have been trying for many years to obtain additional surface water entitlements from the USBR out of Folsom Reservoir, but environmental and water right objections have continually frustrated these efforts.

As a result, the County is now looking to the City's surface water entitlement and has requested that the City ask the SWRCB for permission to expand the City's Authorized POU of American River Water to include additional unincorporated territory within the County.

Accordingly, on April 2nd of this year, the City Council and County Board of Supervisors amended their restated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled "Planning for Water Development and Use." This amendment authorized staff to conduct studies to determine whether, and to what extent, the City's current water entitlements exceed the ultimate reasonable needs within the currently authorized POU of Sacramento and American River

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water, and what should be put to beneficial use in the Sacramento area beyond the currently Authorized POU. A specific plan of study was proposed by staff, at that time, which included: (1) an Estimate of Ultimate Annual Water Demand within the City's currently Authorized POU; (2) development of a Groundwater City Management Plan to determine the practical, reliable, safe annual yield of the groundwater resources within the City's currently Authorized POU; and (3) development of a Water Conservation Plan to estimate the amount of conservation savings which can reasonably be achieved. Environmental review, under the California Environmental Quality Act, also will be required before any decision can be made to expand the authorized American River POU. The conduct of these studies is progressing; however, staff feels that at least a year, and more likely eighteen months, will be required for their completion.

City and County staff believe it is appropriate to begin the petition process with the SWRCB at this time prior to completion of the studies and the environmental review, recognizing that until they are completed, the City Council cannot make a definite decision to pursue the petitions to approval by the SWRCB. Should the conclusions of the studies and the environmental review indicate the need to revise or withdraw the petitions to the SWRCB, this can be done.

The four petitions (one for each of our American River permits), therefore, have been prepared requesting that the Authorized POU under these permits be expanded. A map delineating the expanded POU boundary, as presently proposed by the staff, is included and defines an area of approximately 304 square miles (195,000 acres). This would virtually double the larger 96,000 acre area of the currently Authorized POU of American River water. The ability of the City's entitlements to serve the water needs of an area this size is dependent upon several factors, including the intensity of ultimate development, the reliable capacity of groundwater resources, and the degree of water savings achieved through conservation, all of which are the subject of ongoing studies. If these studies or the environmental review conclude that the size of the proposed POU expansion is inappropriate, it will be necessary to modify the petitions to the SWRCB.

**FINANCIAL DATA**

A non-refundable fee of \$100 is charged for each of the four permits, for a total cost of \$400.

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**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

The conclusions of the studies and the environmental review, when completed, must be taken into account by the City Council before definitely deciding to pursue the petitions to approval by the SWRCB. There is no assurance that the petitions would then be approved by the SWRCB. The SWRCB could disapprove them, approve them with conditions such as metering, or approve them as requested. Parties other than the City and County will no doubt have a strong interest in the matter and may well protest. The entire process, including the required environmental review, may prove to be both controversial and costly.

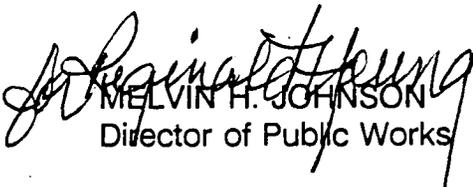
**MBE/WBE EFFORTS**

None.

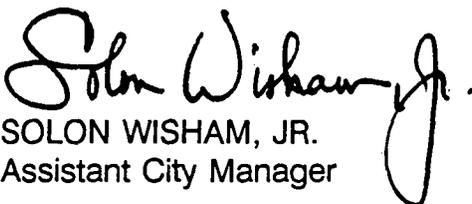
**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Budget and Finance/Transportation and Community Development Committees recommend that the City Council approve the attached resolution, which authorizes the City Manager to file petitions with the SWRCB to expand the Authorized POU of water diverted under the City's four American River water right permits as proposed by staff. This action should be taken with the understanding that a definite decision as to the content of the petitions and whether to pursue them to approval by the SWRCB will be made after the previously authorized results of studies and environmental review are considered.

Respectfully submitted,

  
MELVIN H. JOHNSON  
Director of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

  
SOLON WISHAM, JR.  
Assistant City Manager

July 17, 1990  
All Districts

Contact Person:  
Don Jacobs, Supervising Engineer (449-5518)

# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK  
TO FILE PETITIONS WITH THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
TO EXPAND THE AUTHORIZED PLACES OF USE OF WATER DIVERTED  
UNDER THE CITY'S FOUR  
AMERICAN RIVER WATER RIGHTS PERMITS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

The City Manager and City Clerk are hereby authorized to file petitions with the SWRCB to expand the authorized places of use of water diverted under the City's four American River water right permits as proposed by staff, with the understanding that a definite decision as to their content and whether to pursue them to approval by the SWRCB will be made after the studies previously authorized and environmental review are completed and the results are considered.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

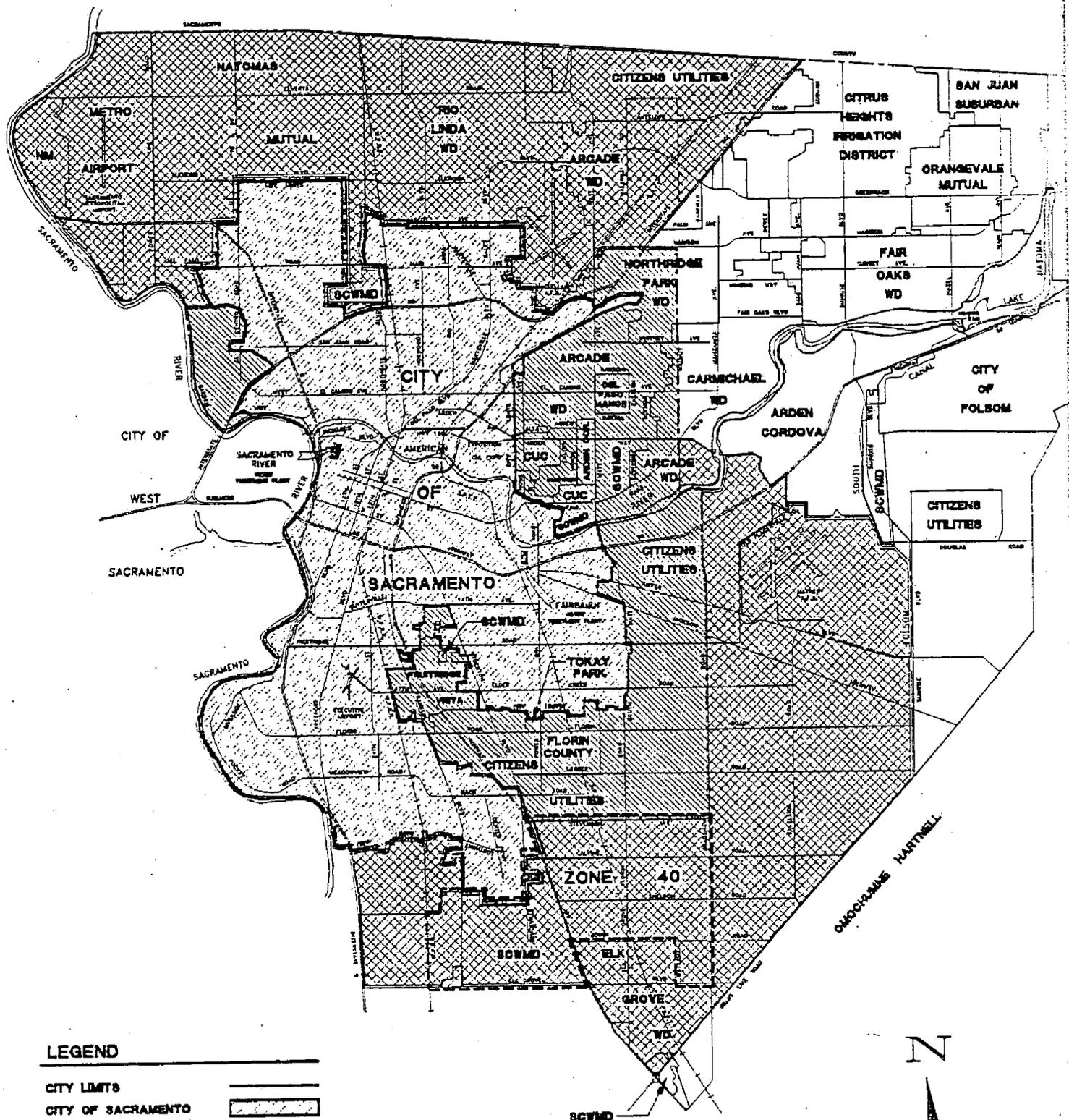
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_



**LEGEND**

- CITY LIMITS —————
- CITY OF SACRAMENTO ▨▨▨▨▨▨
- EXISTING P.O.U. - - - - -
- EXISTING PLACE OF USE OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS ▧▧▧▧▧▧
- PROPOSED ADDITION TO EXISTING PLACE OF USE ▩▩▩▩▩▩
- WATER DISTRICTS —————
- ZONE 40 - - - - -

**CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED AND  
PROPOSED EXPANDED PLACE OF USE  
OF AMERICAN RIVER WATER**

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
WATER DIVISION

