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DEPARTMENT  
OF UTILITIES  
  
ENGINEERING  
SERVICES DIVISION

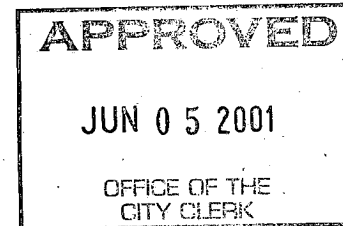
CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

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May 18, 2001

AG 2001-088



City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT TO FORM REGIONAL WATER  
AUTHORITY**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the Joint Powers Agreement forming, and making the City a member of, the Regional Water Authority, and to appoint the City representatives.

**CONTACT PERSON:** James Sequeira, Director of Utilities, 264 -1407  
Gary Reents, Engineering Services Manager, 264 -1433

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** June 5, 2001

**SUMMARY:**

Over the last year the water purveyors in the Sacramento region have worked to create a Regional Water Authority. The proposed Regional Water Authority will serve and represent the region's water interests to help members protect the reliability, availability, and quality of water resources. The Regional Water Authority will be formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between all of its members. Staff recommends that Council approve the JPA.



CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
DEPARTMENT  
OF UTILITIES

*Making a Difference in Your Neighborhood*

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Approval of Joint Powers Agreement to Form Regional Water Authority

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

None.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The greater Sacramento area is home to over 20 water providers and half a dozen different regional water associations and organizations. Many of these organizations provide similar services and work toward similar goals such as managing groundwater supply, facilitating the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water, and implementing efficient water use programs. As a result, these organizations also compete for time commitments, program support and financial resources from all of the Sacramento area water providers.

In 1999 and 2000, over 20 Sacramento area water providers with over 50 representatives met to investigate opportunities for consolidating the regional water organizations into one "umbrella organization." The group was also interested in expanding the potential scope of services provided. After several meetings, the group became dubbed the "Regional Issues Committee" (RIC).

The regional organizations considered for consolidation were:

- Sacramento Metropolitan Water Authority (SMWA)
- Sacramento North Area Groundwater Management Authority (SNAGMA)
- Sacramento Area Water Works Association (SAWWA General)
- SAWWA's Conservation Committee
- SAWWA's Backflow Committee
- Sacramento Maintenance and Regional Technology Group (SMART)
- American River Basin Cooperating Agencies (ARBCA)

After a year-long process of bi-monthly planning workshops, dozens of committee and sub-committee meetings, and numerous presentations to targeted water organizations, the RIC is preparing to launch the umbrella organization in June 2001, which will be known as the Regional Water Authority (RWA).

The RWA will offer its members the following benefits:

- a resource for developing and obtaining financing from external funding sources
- a central communication point for regional water issues

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- cooperation and consistency in dealing with external interests and issues
- collaboration on regional planning and coordination efforts
- coordinated responses to proposed state and federal regulations
- a forum for executive managers, middle managers and employees
- improved efficiency of meetings for matters of regional concern
- centralized staffing, leadership and location for existing regional organizations and associations
- cooperative programs and projects on a subscription basis

The JPA has also been developed to ensure RWA will not:

- speak for members on matters of external policy, without unanimous consent of the membership.
- become a full service water provider, competing with existing providers.
- develop, own, operate, or maintain water supply facilities or develop water supply projects in its own name.
- obligate its members financially to subscription-based projects and programs that members do not support.
- exercise governing or regulatory authority over member agencies.

The Board of Directors of the RWA will consist of two individuals from each member agency who share a single vote on the board of directors. An executive committee of seven representatives will be elected annually from the board of directors to make routine business decisions on behalf of RWA and serve as a sounding board for detailed issues and proposals from the RWA staff. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the executive committee will also serve as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the board of directors, respectively. Members will have equal voting power, without regard to contributions or fees paid. Any member provider shall have veto power for matters of policy, which requires unanimous consent of all of the members.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The RWA proposes a rate structure that features three member categories for the purpose of determining an equitable allocation of administrative overhead costs. "Small" is defined as 7,000 or fewer connections, "medium" is defined as 7,001 to 22,000 connections, and "large" is defined as 22,001 connections or more. The initial contribution to join RWA is fixed at \$3,000 for small-sized members and a maximum of \$23,000 for large-sized members. Medium-sized members will

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initially contribute a proportionate amount of the costs between large and small, scaled by a connection-based formula. The City will be one of eight large-sized members, thus its contribution would be \$23,000.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

None since formation of the Regional Water Authority is not an action subject to CEQA review.

**POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

Membership in the proposed Regional Water Authority is consistent with previous Council actions. The RWA will not build, own or operate any water facilities. The RWA must have unanimous consent of all of its members regarding any policy issues. The regional water planning efforts envisioned within the RWA are an outgrowth of the Water Forum Agreement. In addition, the City already participates in most of the organizations (SAWWA, SNAGMA, SMART, and ARBCA) being incorporated into or associated with the proposed RWA.

**MBE/WBE:**

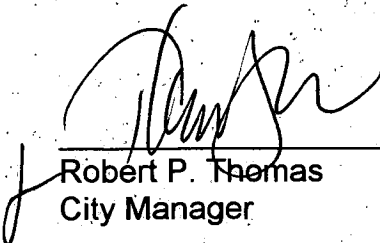
None since no goods or services are being purchased.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary A. Reents  
Engineering Services Manager

**RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:**

  
Robert P. Thomas  
City Manager

**APPROVED:**

  
James G. Sequeira  
Director of Utilities

**APPROVED**  
JUN 05 2001  
OFFICE OF THE  
CITY CLERK

**RESOLUTION NO. 2001-759**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

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

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT FOR THE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS OF STAFF TO THE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

The City Manager is authorized to sign the Joint Powers Agreement for the Regional Water Authority, and to make appointments of staff to the Regional Water Authority Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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

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

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

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

