



Managers Working Group Information Sheet

In 2009, general managers and senior staff of water utilities throughout Southern California formed a Managers Working Group to address shared issues and concerns. These water utilities are member agencies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), and they face a myriad of common challenges and issues, including infrastructure investments, water reliability planning, engineering and operational needs, financial issues, and water rates. It is common practice in the water industry to meet with other agencies and address common issues through work groups, and such workgroup meetings are completely legal under the Brown Act.

Like other industry workgroups, this working group focused on a number of shared interests and issues, one of which was pending litigation by the San Diego County Water Authority (San Diego) against Metropolitan and its member agencies. San Diego is suing Metropolitan over its water rate structure in an attempt to shift costs from San Diego to all other Metropolitan member agencies. They have recently launched a negative and inaccurate media campaign in a choreographed effort to divert attention from the real issue: their expensive quest for water independence. If successful, San Diego would shift more than \$800 million over the next twenty years to other Metropolitan member agencies, including the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), which would be impacted by as much as \$155 million.

MWDOC remains engaged in the working group to protect its ratepayers and promote the best interests of Orange County's residents and businesses. The activities and proceedings of the working group are reported at open public meetings including the monthly meeting of MWDOC's Board of Directors. Any attempt by San Diego to characterize these meetings as 'secret' is completely inaccurate.

For additional information, please review the Question & Answer sheet or contact MWDOC's General Manager, Kevin Hunt, at (714) 593-5026 (office), (714) 334-6601 (cell), or khunt@mwdoc.com.

