

E Environment Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: March 9, 2010

Subject: Approval of the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Council Member Wulff suggested an editorial change to revise language in chapter 3, page 26, so that it does not refer to global climate change, but rather weather patterns.

It was moved by Council Member Bowles, seconded by Council Member Wulff, to revise language on page 3-26, second paragraph, as follows: ~~Global climate change has~~ Any changes in climate patterns have the potential to significantly impact the region's water supplies in the future. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan as amended was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

E Environment Committee

Meeting date: March 9, 2010

For the Metropolitan Council Meeting of March 24, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	March 1, 2010
Subject:	Approval of the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statute 473.1565
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Chris Elvrum 651-602-1066; Keith Buttleman 651-602-1015
Division/Department:	MCES C/O William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan.

Background

Minnesota Statute 473.1565 directs the Metropolitan Council to "carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area" including the development of a master water supply plan (plan) for the metro area. Through a robust technical analysis, the plan identifies areas, typically associated with high projected growth, where future withdrawals could impact sensitive ecosystems or where the productivity of local aquifers appears insufficient or is unknown. It provides tools and guidance to cities and regulators for addressing these issues and for developing sustainable water sources capable of meeting future demand without adverse impacts to natural resources.

The plan was completed and provisionally approved by the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (Committee) in March 2009.

Following a trial period, the final plan was developed with the participation of stakeholders across the region, including relevant state agencies, local governments, technical experts and others, and was recommended for approval by the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee on February 25, 2010.

A copy of the plan can be found at:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/WaterSupply/masterplan.htm>

Rationale

The development of a metropolitan area master water supply plan is required by State Statute.

Known Support / Opposition

The plan has the endorsement of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee. There is no known opposition to the plan.