

## Environment Committee

Meeting date: September 22, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2015

**Subject:** Authorize Staff to Send the Final 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan to Full Council for Approval

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803

**Division/Department:** MCES c/o Leisa Thompson, 651-602-8101

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan.

### Background

Population growth and expanding development are increasing demands on our water supplies in the region. Coordinated planning by local communities, the Metropolitan Council, and state partners will help meet our future water supply needs.

The purpose of the metro area's Master Water Supply Plan is to provide communities in the region with planning assistance for water supply in a way that:

- Recognizes local control and responsibility for owning, maintaining and operating water supply systems.
- Is developed in cooperation and consultation with municipal water suppliers, regional stakeholders and state agencies.
- Protects critical habitat and water resources over the long term.
- Meets regional needs for a reliable, secure water supply.
- Highlights the benefits of integrated planning for stormwater, wastewater and water supply.
- Emphasizes and supports conservation and interjurisdictional cooperation, and
- Provides clear guidance by identifying key challenges/issues/considerations in the region and available approaches without dictating solutions.

So that communities can take the most proactive, cost effective approach to long term planning and permitting to ensure plentiful, safe, and affordable water that supports the prosperity and livability of the region for future generations.

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) developed this plan under the guidance of the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC), a policy advisory committee required by state law (Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565), and in collaboration with a Community Technical Work Group (CTWG), which served as a technical advisory committee. In addition, comments were heard at several public meetings from over 260 attendees representing more than 75 communities.

MCES held a formal public hearing on August 11, 2015. One entity testified at the hearing and 17 letters representing 17 entities were received as part of the formal public review process. Council staff responded to 53 comments received. All comments were supportive of the plan, many required minor language clarifications and changes and a few required larger changes to the format of Appendix 1 of the plan. These changes were made and have addressed comments made during the formal public review process. Comments, responses and revisions to the plan were reviewed by MAWSAC, the CTWG and MCES staff.

### **Rationale**

The Council has prepared a Master Water Supply Plan under state law (Minn. Stat., Sec. 473.1565) directing it to:

“carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the metropolitan area,”...[including] development and maintenance of technical information; recommendations for clarifying roles, streamlining decision-making and approval processes, and funding; and the development of a twin cities metropolitan area master water supply plan that:

- Provides guidance for local water supply systems and future regional investments;
- Emphasizes conservation, interjurisdictional cooperation, and long-term sustainability; and
- Addresses the reliability, security, and cost-effectiveness of the metropolitan area water supply system and its local and subregional components.”

When adopted, this plan will replace the current Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan adopted in March 2010.

### **Funding**

None

### **Known Support / Opposition**

On September 16, 2015, MAWSAC approved the 2015 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan and recommended that the Environment Committee and Council adopt the plan.

No known opposition.