

Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy
Board Packet Information
Last Update: October 15, 2009

Agenda Item: Consider Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA) appeal

Background: A GRAMA request was received by the District on August 18, 2009 requesting invoices from January 1, 1990 (more than 19 years) related to legal services, lobbyists and public relations. This was a revision to an earlier request received on May 26, 2009 asking for similar information since January 1, 2000 (more than 9 years). As part of the District's record keeping process, invoice records are destroyed after 4 years. After considerable effort, all requested invoices were gathered and copied. The requester received the documents on September 22, 2009. More than 800 pages of invoices were copied and provided. Redactions were made to portions of the legal invoices.

On September 25, 2009, the requester sent an email to board members and staff that appears to act as an appeal of the District's response to the GRAMA request. Printed copies of the nearly 50 page appeal document are available upon request. Although unclear, the appeal appears to take issue with the manner in which information was redacted from portions of the legal invoices. In addition, the requester seeks information that does not exist regarding details of expenditures for public relations. The bulk of the public relations efforts were utilized as part of the Metro Water Project in communicating and coordinating construction activities and other related project events. Other efforts related to governmental relations are primarily focused on monitoring and coordination with the state legislature.

Section 9-12 of the District's Policies and Procedures states in part:

...any person aggrieved by classification, designation or access decisions of the District may appeal to the District's Board of Trustees....[T]he notice of appeal shall be sent to the Chair of the Board. The matter shall be set as soon as practicable on the Board meeting agenda.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the board assign this matter to an ad hoc committee (or a standing committee) to review the efforts that staff made in preparing the response to the subject GRAMA request.