R23-00 (Revised)
ADOPTED June 7, 2000

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COG TASK FORCE ON REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY ISSUES FOR A WATER SUPPLY AND DROUGHT AWARENESS PROGRAM AND RESPONSE

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (Council) has a continuing interest in the management and protection of the drinking water supply resources of the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, the Council adopted the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply Emergency Plan in 1994 to help coordinate the response to drinking water emergencies by local governments, water utilities and other parties; and

WHEREAS, the Council, recognizing water supply in the Potomac River basin is a priority of regional importance, passed Resolution R37-99 on July 14, 1999, to establish a Task Force on Regional Water Supply Issues to review regional water systems, examine the roles of the water utilities, government and others, and identify key issues in long-term water supply planning and drought management; and

WHEREAS; regional water utilities financed a portion of a federal project to build the Jennings Randolph Reservoir and the Little Seneca Reservoir under the terms of a cost-sharing agreement to provide water supply storage capacity to meet regional water supply demands; and

WHEREAS; the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin's (ICPRB) Co-op Section manages the use of Jennings Randolph and Little Seneca reservoirs to meet water supply demands and maintain minimum environmental flow-by in the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 1999, the region experienced near-record drought conditions that led to different responses by governments and water utilities within the region and some public confusion about proper response; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 1999, the Board passed Resolution R44-99 asking the Task Force to give emphasis in its deliberations to regional communication and coordination in the event of a future drought emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Council, in response to the recommendations of the Task Force presented on November 10, 1999, called for updates of existing agreements to increase cooperation, communication and coordination among local governments and water utilities in the region and specifically requested the Task Force to develop a system of proposed triggers and actions to respond in a coordinated manner to future droughts in the Potomac River basin that may impact water supply operations; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force, in a series of regular and workgroup meetings involving representatives of local governments, state governments and water utilities, thoroughly discussed various proposals for uniform drought response and has presented its recommendations to the Council: and

WHEREAS, these recommendations emphasize the need to educate the public throughout the year on their sources of water, on the status of the region's water supply and the need to use water wisely, as well as to coordinate specific messages during times of actual drought and water supply shortages;

WHEREAS, the Task Force has developed a Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Program and Response Plan" to manage the region's responses and actions during periods of drought, and that the plan is focused primarily on those local governments, water supply utilities and customers of the Potomac River Co-op system; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force intends to expand the plan to encompass all other customers, water supply utilities, and local governments in the Washington metropolitan region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT;

1. The "Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Program and Response" proposed by the COG Task Force on Regional Water Supply Issues, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution, is hereby adopted as the basis for a new section of the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply Emergency Plan.

2. The Task Force is directed to oversee formal incorporation of this response plan into the Emergency Plan and transmit for signature by local governments, and states, and water utilities.

3. The Task Force is directed to develop expeditiously a public information briefing advising the public of the water supply outlook for this summer and initiate its year-round public information program promoting wise use of water throughout the region.

4. The Task Force is directed to expand the Metropolitan Washington Water Supply and Drought Awareness Program and Response plan to apply to the entire metropolitan Washington region as soon as practicable, but no later than Fall 2000.

5. The Task Force will continue to address the other issues noted in its November, 1999 recommendations including long-term water supply planning and Potomac River protection during drought conditions.

6. The Chairman shall transmit this resolution to all the participating local governments in the Council, the Governors of Maryland and Virginia and appropriate state agencies, and water utilities throughout the Washington metropolitan region.