

# DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: April 22, 2015

Board Item: II-B-1

## 2015 Subscriber Fees for the Water Research Foundation

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Action by Consent

Action

Information

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### Summary:

The Water Research Foundation provides service to the water industry by conducting research on behalf of its member utilities, consultants and equipment manufacturers. This research has proven to be effective in advancing technology and in providing a science base for water-quality regulations. Since 1987, a key component of the Foundation's research funding has come through subscription contributions from member utilities. Contributions are based on a formula that includes the amount of water produced by a utility minus the water purchased and sold. Denver Water is one of the original, founding subscribers of the Water Research Foundation.

Over the past several years, Denver Water has increased its participation in and use of services from the Water Research Foundation. CEO Jim Lochhead serves on its Board of Trustees. Director of Finance Angela Bricmont serves on a Technical Advisory Committee for Water Utility Finance. Several employees serve as experts on project advisory committees and have participated in workshops addressing water quality issues that affect utilities across the nation. In 2014, Denver Water also participated actively in four research projects that directly impact our operations:

- Wildfire Impacts on Drinking Water Treatment Process Performance: Development of Evaluation Protocols and Management Practices
- Optimizing Biofiltration for Various Source Water Quality
- Customer Assistance Programs for Multi-Family Residential and Other Hard to Reach Customers
- Evaluation of Innovative Reflectance Based UV for Enhanced Disinfection and Advanced Oxidation

In addition, Denver Water employees have utilized our membership to participate in four webinars and order 57 research reports over the past 12 months (a total research value of over \$20 million) to help deliver safe drinking water to our customers.

### Budget Information:

For 2015, \$140,000 was budgeted for Water Research Foundation subscriber fees. In past years, Denver Water has taken a credit for water sold to suburban water distributors which reduced our fees but excluded those distributors from membership and its related benefits. This year, in an effort to provide better service to and better collaborate with our distributor partners, we propose to eliminate the credit. This would allow 18 of our largest distributors to become members of the Water Research Foundation under our umbrella. The additional cost for not taking this credit and including these 18 distributors under Denver Water's membership is \$16,433 for a total amount due of \$146,844. This is \$6,688 over budget.

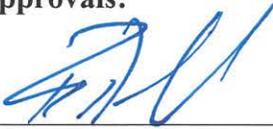
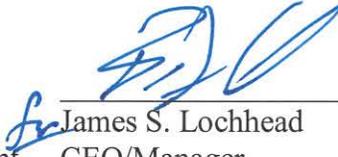
2015 Budget	\$ 140,000
Amount Requested This Item	\$ 146,844
YTD Expenditures	\$ 0
Dollars Budgeted for Future Years	\$ Annual dues – budgeted annually
Revised Estimate	\$
Budget Adjustment	\$ 6,844

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve payment of 2015 subscriber fees to the Water Research Foundation in the amount of \$146,844.

**Approvals:**

Respectfully submitted,

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 Brian D. Good  
 Deputy Manager – Organizational Improvement

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 James S. Lochhead  
 CEO/Manager



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 Terri Bryant  
 Controller