

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT **OCTOBER 4, 2001 – Water Resources**
 McDonald, Little
OCTOBER 22, 2001 – Board Meeting
 Prepared by: Paul Shoenberger
 Submitted by: Paul Shoenberger
 Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

INFORMATION CALENDAR

REFINERY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY:

The largest group of pumpers in the West Coast Groundwater Basin are the refineries. Of the 64,468 acre-feet of adjudicated rights, 23,127 acre-feet (or 36%) of the rights are for refineries. The majority of the refineries are in close proximity to the Dominguez Gap Barrier.

A staff level Refinery Committee has been created and comprised of representatives of West Basin, WRD, and the groundwater pumpers. The purpose of the Committee is to explore how to get the refineries off of groundwater pumping and onto recycled water service. The perceived benefits of reduced groundwater pumping by the refineries are:

- Increased groundwater levels in the Dominguez pumping hole;
- Reduced seawater intrusion through the Dominguez Gap Barrier;
- Reduced amount of water injected into the Dominguez Gap Barrier (thus reducing WRD's and the pumpers' water supply costs); and
- Increased service of recycled water.

The initial concept that the Committee is exploring is a groundwater in-lieu program. The basic components of such a program are:

- Refineries would reduce groundwater pumping for a period of time;
- The groundwater rights could either be retired by the refineries or held in retirement by an agency during this period of time;
- The above mentioned benefits would occur;
- WRD would return a portion of the benefits to the refineries in the form of an annual in-lieu payment; and
- West Basin would serve recycled water to the refineries in our service area.

West Basin will estimate the amount of recycled water the refineries can take and how much groundwater pumping the refineries can eliminate. Also, West Basin will determine the economics of extending the recycled water system. The Water Replenishment District will use their groundwater model to estimate the benefits to the West Coast Groundwater Basin. The entire Committee will develop a recommended in-lieu payment amount.

Also being explored is a groundwater in-lieu pilot program. This program would target BP ARCO as the first participant because BP ARCO has the ability to immediately roll off groundwater pumping and increase recycled water usage from West Basin Carson Plant.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Undetermined at this time.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on October 4, 2001 and agendaized to the October 22, 2001 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.