

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 8, 2001 – Water Resources
Smith – Conference Call – No Quorum
NOVEMBER 26, 2001 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Richard Nagel
Submitted by: Richard Nagel
Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

ACTION CALENDAR

WEST COAST BASIN BARRIER
EXPERT PANEL - 100% INJECTION OF RECYCLED WATER

BACKGROUND:

This past year, the Board authorized staff to engage a panel of five experts with the primary goal of providing the Department of Health Services (DHS) clarity in developing the regulatory criteria. The Expert Panel's mission was set out to provide their collective opinion on the efficacy and advisability of increasing the amount of recycled water to the Barrier up to 100% from the perspective of public health protection. DHS' regulatory approval is one of the essential elements to providing up to 100% recycled water to the West Coast Basin Barrier. To date, there is not an agency in California, or for that matter in the United States that has injected 100% recycled water into a groundwater basin.

The five panel members and their respective fields were as follows:

Dr. Mike McGuire – Chairperson
Dr. Harvey Collins – Public Health
Dr. David Jenkins – Water Quality
Dr. Perry McCarty – Wastewater Treatment
Dr. Dennis Williams – Hydrogeology

Interested parties, including West and Central Basin purveyors, DHS, WRD, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board attended three workshops, hosted by West Basin, on November 15, December 14, 2000 and March 14, 2001. Generally between 30-40 people attended each workshop.

The culmination of the workshops and subsequent discussion led to a report by the panel with their recommendations on how to achieve injection of 100%-recycled water. The report was distributed to DHS and over 50 other interested parties.

Since that time, DHS has been developing the regulatory criteria. In that process, DHS has had additional questions and is seeking clarity from the panel. DHS has requested to meet at least one more time with the panel. This is viewed as an essential piece to establishing an acceptable regulatory framework.

To facilitate this request, staff recommends increasing each panel member's contract by \$5,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds are available in the West Basin Water Recycling Plant Phase IV Expansion.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

None.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed at the Water Resources Committee by the Alternate Director Smith on November 8, 2001. Director Smith was in favor of staff recommendation, although due to a lack of quorum there was no Committee recommendation, this item will be brought to the November 26, 2001 Board meeting for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the General Manager to increase each Expert Panel member's contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$5,000 for a combined total not-to-exceed \$25,000.