

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**JUNE 5, 2002 – Water Resources**
McDonald, Little**JUNE 24, 2002 – Board Meeting**

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

OCEAN WATER DESALINATION UPDATESUMMARY:**Public Relations**

Staff continues to work closely with LPC, Ruetten and Patsy Tennyson of Katz & Associates further developing the message to be incorporated into the public outreach program. The consultant has conducted three major workshops with staff to date. A demonstration was given showing the pilot plant producing desalinated ocean-water.

The PBS channel KCET conducted an interview with staff to discuss the West Basin Ocean-Water Desalination Program on May 24. The interview was conducted by Gay Yee for the weekly show titled Life and Times that aired on May 30. The actual interview was conducted in two phases. The first phase was conducted at the West Basin Water Recycling Facility. In this portion of the interview, staff gave a tour of the facility explaining the technology. The second phase of the tour was conducted at the Ocean-Water Desalination Pilot Plant. During this portion of the interview, staff explained the various components of the pilot plant.

Regulatory Activities

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) - The RWQCB issued a letter to El Segundo Power LLC on May 17 authorizing West Basin to discharge the Pilot Plant effluent into the Power Plant ocean-water outfall system.

MWD Ocean Water Desalination RFP

Work is proceeding on the proposal to MWD for funding for the District's planned 20 mgd facility. The proposal will emphasize the now-operational pilot unit and research program, as well as the District's extensive record of accomplishment with design-building and operating water recycling facilities, particularly with MF/RO technology. Proposals are due to MWD by June 28.

Pilot Plant Project

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) letter authorizing operation of the Pilot Plant was received on Friday, May 17, 2002. Accordingly, El Segundo Power LLC authorized pilot plant startup and testing to proceed on Monday afternoon, May 20. Startup of the microfiltration unit and the various associated components was completed Thursday, May 23. The startup of the reverse osmosis unit was completed the morning of Friday, May 24. The Pilot Plant produced the first glass of desalinated water at 11:00 am Friday morning. The optimization and testing of the Pilot Plant will be completed by Tuesday, June 4.

A purchase order has been setup with Sevenfold, LLC to bottle approximately 500 cases of the Pilot Plant product water for promotional purposes. Staff continues to work closely with

the State Health Services Department, Food and Drug Bureau (DHS) to gain approval for bottling desalinated water produced from the Pilot Plant. DHS noted that typically this approval process takes between two to four weeks; however, since there is no DHS standard for utilizing desalinated ocean-water as "source water" the approval process would be more extensive and require additional time. DHS also noted that the Marine Coast Water District submitted an application last month to utilize desalinated ocean-water as source water and has yet to gain approval. A sample of the desalinated water was taken from the Pilot Plant the first week in June for extensive lab testing as required by DHS to show that the "source water" meets all standards for drinking water.

Integration and Siting Study

The Board awarded the Full Scale Desalination Plant Siting and Integration Study at the May 2002 Board Meeting to HDR Engineers Inc. During the month of June, the contract processing was completed. The kick off meeting was conducted the third week in June.

Activities

Since the last Board update was prepared, staff has been active in pursuing ocean-water desalination efforts. The key activities have been:

- May 16 The Ocean Water Desalination Program Monthly Team Meeting was conducted
- May 17 RWOCB issued a letter to El Segundo Power LLC authorizing West Basin to discharge the pilot plant effluent into power plant ocean-water cooling system
- May 20 The Pilot Plant Startup phase began
- May 22 Six environmental consulting firms submitted proposals to the West Basin RFP to prepare environmental documents for the proposed construction and operation of the full-scale ocean-water desalination facility.
- May 23 A meeting was held with Lang/Pan/Chan, Public Information Services Consultant for the Desalination Program to further define the message and goals of the public outreach program being developed.
- May 24 The Pilot Plant produced the first glass of "desalinated" water at 11:00 am.
- May 24 The PBS channel KCET conducted an interview with staff to discuss the West Basin Ocean-Water Desalination Program. As part of the interview staff gave a tour of the El Segundo Water Recycling Plant, as well as a demonstration of the Pilot Plant producing desalinated water.
- May 29 Staff conducted interviews of the six environmental firms that submitted proposals to prepare environmental documents for the construction and operation of the full-scale desalination plant.
- June 4 Director Kwan and staff conducted a presentation of the West Basin Seawater Desalination Program to the City Council of Manhattan Beach.
- June 18 Manhattan Beach City Council to consider a resolution of support for the West Basin Ocean-Water Desalination Program.
- June 19 El Segundo City Council to consider a letter of support for the West Basin Ocean-Water Desalination Program.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

All expenditures are within the budget set by the Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Staff sent out a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) on April 22 to 11 environmental consulting firms. The RFP requested proposals to prepare an environmental document for the proposed construction and operation of the full-scale ocean-water desalination facility. A total of six consulting firms submitted proposals before the May 22 due date. These firms are:

- Applied Planning Inc.
- Aspen Environmental Group
- CDM
- Environmental Science Associates
- HDR Engineers Inc.
- KS Dunbar and Associates

Proposal evaluations and interviews were conducted on May 29, results were discussed and approved by the Water Resources Committee June 5, 2002 and the recommendations are included in Agenda Item 13 of today's Board meeting.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This Item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on June 5, 2002 and agendized to the June 24, 2002 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

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