

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**JULY 2, 2002 – Water Resources**

McDonald, Little

JULY 22, 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. To date, the consultant team has conducted three major workshops and media training for District staff focusing on the core message points associated with the West Basin ocean-water desalination program. A copy of these core message points is attached (as Exhibit 1), along with the executive summary of the workshops developed by staff and our public relations consultants.

Lee Peterson of the daily breeze conducted an interview with staff at the demonstration plant site on June 14, 2002. An overview of the West Basin ocean-water desalination program was given during the interview, as well as an explanation of how the technology worked, describing the individual components that make up the demonstration plant. The article was published in the Daily Breeze's Sunday, June 16, 2002 edition (attached as Exhibit 2).

Regulatory Activities

As a condition of the Regional Water Quality Control Board discharge permit, the first quarterly report is being prepared summarizing constituents of the Demonstration Plant discharge effluent.

MWD Seawater Desalination RFP

On June 27, 2002, West Basin submitted a proposal to Metropolitan Water District for MWD's seawater desalination financial contribution program. If the West Basin proposal is accepted, MWD could fund up to \$250 per acre-foot of potable water produced by the West Basin's planned 20 MGD Ocean-Water Desalination Facility. The proposal focused on West Basin's now-operational ocean-water demonstration plant and research programs, as well as West Basin's extensive record of accomplishment with the design, construction, and operation water recycling facilities utilizing MF/RO technology.

Demonstration Plant Project

The Demonstration Plant testing program started on July 15. During this phase of the project, extensive operational testing and water-quality research sampling will be conducted at this facility. The goals for this phase of the program are:

1. To demonstrate the operational reliability of this proven microfiltration/reverse osmosis process in an ocean-water desalination application through data collection and computer monitoring of an actual desalination operation, and
2. To verify that this treatment process will produce high-quality water under all conditions through a comprehensive water quality research plan, including over 1,500 water-quality analyses planned over this year alone.

On June 17, 2002, staff met with the Department of Health Services (DHS). The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the status of all West Basin projects involving the DHS, but, more specifically, to address DHS's concerns regarding the bottling of the product water from the Demonstration Plant for consumption. DHS stated that they would not endorse bottling water from the ocean-water desalination demonstration plant at this time, primarily because it is not an approved or permitted drinking water facility.

Integration and Siting Study

On July 11, 2002, staff conducted a Kick-Off meeting with HDR Engineers Inc., the consulting team contracted to prepare the Integration and Siting Study for the full-scale Ocean-Water Desalination Plant. The preparation of the Study is proceeding on schedule.

Program Schedule

In December 2001, staff and the Board developed a schedule for the Ocean-Water Desalination Program. The attached six-month update of this master schedule illustrates milestone activities that have been accomplished to date. As shown, the Program is on schedule. However, meeting the design development milestone date of October 2003 is dependant not only on the efforts of West Basin, but also on the ability of outside agencies to meet their commitments.

Activities

The attached schedule update shows the overall ocean-water program schedule status, listing key activities being pursued as part of West Basin's ocean-water desalination effort:

- June 16 The Daily Breeze published an article in their Sunday, June 16 edition.
- June 18 Manhattan Beach City Council approved a resolution of support for the West Basin ocean-water desalination program.
- June 19 El Segundo City Council approved a letter of support for the West Basin ocean-water desalination program.
- June 20 Staff conducted a presentation of the West Basin ocean-water desalination program to the City of Torrance Water Commission.
- July 11 The kickoff meeting for the Full-Scale Desalination Plant Siting and Integration Study was conducted.
- July 15 The operational testing and water quality research phase of the demonstration plant program began.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

All expenditures are within the budget set by the Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

The Board awarded the preparation of environmental documents for the proposed construction and operation of the full-scale ocean-water desalination facility at the June 2002 Board meeting to Aspen Environmental Group. During the month of July the contract, processing was completed. The kick-off meeting will be conducted in August.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on July 2, 2002 and agendized to the July 22, 2002 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit "A" - West Basin Ocean-Water Desalination – Core Message Points & Executive Summary
- Exhibit "B" - Article from the Daily Breeze of June 16, 2002
Daily Breeze Editorial of July 10, 2002
- Exhibit "C" - Proposed Project Schedule