

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002 - Water Resources
McDonald, Little
SEPTEMBER 23, 2002 - Board Meeting
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INFORMATION CALENDAR

OCEAN WATER DESALINATION UPDATESUMMARY:**Public Relations**

As reported at the September 6 Board Workshop, an aggressive public relations campaign has begun. Press releases on effects of the drought and the public opinion poll will be going out in early September and meetings have been scheduled with newspaper editorial boards to promote the Project. Work has also started on the animation proposal, including storyboard examples and a cost analysis. Both community and government outreach efforts will begin in October and will be ongoing. A variety of presentations are being developed for use with different audiences, ranging from general audiences to technical groups. Training will be given to all that may have opportunities to make presentations on both the staff and Director levels. Media training for Directors and staff has been scheduled and Hans Bliker will present his program on handling objections and delivering the message at workshops planned for October 24 (directors and staff) and October 25 (staff).

MWD Request for Proposals

The Ocean Water Desalination Coalition met with MWD staff on August 16 to discuss MWD's evaluation process of the five Ocean Water Desalination Proposals received. MWD staff agreed to propose that the Board accept all five proposals submitted, which would increase the amount of desalinated ocean-water eligible for the MWD subsidy from 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 150,000 AFY. Additionally, MWD staff will recommend that each proposed project receive the \$250 per acre-foot investment. The San Diego project will be contracted with first and serve as a master agreement for West Basin and other projects. MWD staff will meet individually with each agency that submitted proposals to further discuss the technical aspects of their proposed projects, and to set up performance milestones. These meetings will occur through out the months of September and October.

Ocean Water Desalination Coalition

The Ocean Water Coalition and MWD staff is currently planning a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. on September 18 and 19 with elected officials. The goal of these meetings is to set the stage to pursue future funding strategies for proposed ocean-water desalination projects as detailed in Attachment "A".

Ocean Desalination Demonstration Project Grant Funding

A total of \$778,830 has been secured in grant money and in-kind services from Federal, State and Municipal Agencies to assist in the funding of the Ocean Water Desalination Demonstration Project. Staff has also identified an additional \$30,000 in prospective grant funding. Attachment "B" details these funding sources and status of funds received as of August 28.

Demonstration Plant Operations

The Demonstration Plant has logged over 390 hours of on-line production in the month of August (as of August 23). During this period over 18 microbiological samples and 76 chemical samples have been taken for analysis with a focus on the raw water consistency in this early phase of the testing program.

The microfiltration (MF) unit has continuously operated since the last filter cleaning on August 4. The MF unit is consistently producing water suitable for treatment by the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Unit. The RO unit has operated approximately 390 hours or 78% of the time during this same time period with unanticipated down time resulting from required repairs to the RO unit's high-pressure pumps and piping. The RO unit is currently producing water that meets or exceeds expectations.

Activities

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

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| August 16 | Ocean Water Desalination Coalition met with MWD Staff to discuss the Proposal Evaluation Process. |
| August 20 | The Demonstration Plant Dedication Ceremony was held at El Segundo Recycled Water Plant and the Ocean Water Desalination Demonstration Plant |
| August 27 | Staff met with Chevron to discuss feasibility of locating the full-scale 20-MGD Ocean Water Desalination Plant within their property. |
| September 17 & 18 | Ocean Water Coalition with MWD planning meetings in Washington, D.C. |

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are budgeted in the FY 2002-03 CIP Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Environmental Study activities are proceeding on schedule.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This Item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on September 4, 2002 and agendized to the September 23, 2002 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Copy of planning email sent August 28, 2002
Exhibit "B" – Detailed Grant Funding Status Report

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