

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2002 - Water Resources
McDonald, Little

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002 - Board Meeting

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

PIPE BREAK AT THE MILLENDER-MCDONALD REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PLANT

SUMMARY:

On Friday, August 30, 2002 at 3:15 p.m. a 36-inch diameter pipe carrying Title 22 recycled water failed at the inlet of the Millender-McDonald Carson Regional Water Recycling Plant. The break was at the surge tank near the exterior block wall on the north side of the Plant. The break triggered an alarm, and operations staff from United Water responded immediately. The Carson Fire Department also responded to the leak, not knowing the source. An isolation valve was closed upstream of the break, stopping the flow of water within 50 minutes. Service to existing customers (the BP Refinery) was not interrupted.

An estimated 170,000 gallons of T22 recycled water was released into Dominguez Street (a private road north of the Carson Plant), where it then flowed into the storm drain on Wilmington Avenue. Along with the damaged pipe, part of the block wall was knocked down, and a substantial amount of mud spread throughout the plant site and the street. The site was cleaned up that night, and the perimeter fence was temporarily secured with a screened chain link fence.

This portion of the Title 22 inlet pipeline was installed in 2001 by CDM Engineers & Constructors as part of the Distribution System Surge Control Project. "Notice of Completion" for this Project was filed on September 12, 2001; the pipe failure therefore occurred within the one-year warranty period. Staff has notified CDM of the failure, and the repair work is being coordinated. Assuming the work is completed under the Project warranty, all costs, including the repair of the damaged wall, should be covered by CDM.

Another portion of this pipeline, installed as part of the original Carson Plant construction (by Black & Veatch), could also be in danger of failure as it is constructed of the same material and pressure classification as the failed pipe section. During the design phase of the Carson Plant, the operating pressures of the distribution system were expected to be from 60 to 80 psi. Actual operating pressures now fluctuate between 80 to 130 psi. Staff is recommending that this section of the inlet pipeline be replaced to avoid another pipe failure. Staff will prepare a design, and quotes will be obtained from qualified contractors to perform the work required to replace this pipe. This cost for this work is estimated at \$150,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

To be determined.

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

A report will be filed with the Regional Water Quality Control Board within five working days.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was discussed at the September 4, 2002 Water Resources Committee and agendaized to the September 23, 2002 Board meeting as information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

For information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.

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