

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

JUNE 4, 2003 - Water Resources

Little, Kwan

JUNE 23, 2003 - Board Meeting

Prepared by: Jennifer Bender

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Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

INFORMATION CALENDAR

WETLANDS UPDATESUMMARY:

At the May Board meeting, staff suggested goals and benefits to the District in pursuing wetlands projects. Staff intends to evaluate many sites that may be conducive to a potential wetlands opportunity; currently one location provides the most comprehensive near-term opportunity for the District to consider its involvement.

**Gardena Willows Wetland Enhancement**

The Gardena Willows is located in the City of Gardena near the intersection of the Artesia Freeway and Vermont Avenue. The 13-acre site has been under utilized for many years until enhancement opportunities began in 1991 with the award of approximately \$1.2 million in grant money.

The grant money was used to enhance the wetlands as follows:

Phase I - enhancement plan developed;

Phase II - non-native removal, native plantings, sprinkler system installation, and trail grading on north side; and

Phase III - non-native removal, native plantings, trail completion around site, overlooks into the canopy, and drainage improvements.

A proposal submitted in May to the Wetlands Recovery Project (attached as Exhibit A) requested \$300,000 to continue additional enhancement projects, including construction of a nature center, additional re-vegetation, and debris prevention procedures on the inflow structures.

The City of Gardena has received support for this Project from West Basin in concept only, including the possibility of enhancing the wetlands and nearby community with recycled water as appropriate. However, Gardena desires to receive more solid support as they lack the necessary funding to construct and staff the nature center. This potential partnership can help fulfill the following District goals for wetlands projects: wetlands ambassadorship, water quality improvement, utilization of recycled water, education, and collaboration/partnership.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on June 4, 2003 and agendaized to the June 23, 2003 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Gardena Willows Wetland Enhancement Proposal Submittal.

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