

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 8, 2003 - Water Resources
McDonald, Little

OCTOBER 27, 2003 - Board Meeting

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Submitted by: Paul E. Shoenberger

Approved by: Darryl G. Miller

INFORMATION CALENDAR

OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION UPDATESUMMARY:**State Desalination Task force**

The State Desalination Task Force had its final meeting on September 24 and 25 in Sacramento. The Task Force discussed and agreed upon the draft findings and recommendations (see Exhibit "A"). The Task Force has been asked to review the final product and may be asked to convene one last time for a signing ceremony.

United States Desalination Coalition

Senator Pete Domenici's staff has indicated to the U.S. Desalination Coalition that he intends to hold a legislative hearing in November on desalination and the benefits of establishing a Desalination Energy Assistance Program within in the Department of Energy. The Senator and his staff envision this hearing as a precursor to marking up and amending a previously introduced bill to include our proposed legislation. In the coming weeks the U. S. Desalination Coalition will be working closely with Committee staff to coordinate witnesses for the hearing including at least one U.S. Desalination Coalition spokesperson. The Coalition would like to use this opportunity to bring representatives of our Member Agencies and companies to Washington to attend the hearing, participate in a press related event, and have a Board meeting.

The U.S. Desalination Coalition has announced that the Texas Water Conservation Association, at its fall conference in San Antonio, voted unanimously to join the U.S. Desalination Coalition. The Texas Water Conservation Association is similar to ACWA in California. It has significant clout with the Texas Congressional delegation and the coalition looks forward to working with them as it pursues its goals.

The Board of Directors of the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority has also voted to join the Coalition as a full member. They will be represented on the Board by Mr. Jim Reynolds, the Authority's Executive Director. A list of current members of the coalition is provided in Exhibit "B".

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

None required.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on October 8, 2003 and agendaized to the October 27, 2003 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Task Force Findings
Exhibit "B" - U.S. Desalination Coalition Membership

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