

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

JANUARY 7, 2004 - Water Resources

McDonald, Little

JANUARY 26, 2004 - Board Meeting

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION UPDATESUMMARY:**U.S. Desalination Coalition**

The U.S. Desalination Coalition met via conference call on December 19, 2003. Topics of discussion included funding strategies, lobbying efforts, and time frames for legislative approval.

The Coalition is continuing to facilitate introduction of the bill with Representative Jim Davis (Fla.). Representative Davis will be sending a "Dear Colleague" letter in January to other members of Congress to give initial information of the proposed legislation. Representative Davis will introduce the full bill to Congress in February 2004.

- Federal funding credit will be indexed for inflation;
- All agreements must be entered into prior to October 2010; and
- Qualifying projects must produce water within 10 years of enacted legislation.

A copy of the latest draft legislation is attached as Exhibit "A". The following items are the major changes made to the earlier draft legislation:

**2003 National Salinity Conference**

West Basin staff had an opportunity to attend the 2003 Salinity Conference. Darryl Miller presented at the conference on the status of California Desalination Projects. This conference provided a forum to meet with other water agencies, consultants, and vendors involved in the development of desalination projects. The conference also allowed staff the opportunity to network with other agencies to discuss the latest technology in the design and operation of desalination facilities.

**Desalination Pilot Plant Operation**

West Basin's 40 gpm pilot plant continues to operate at the El Segundo Power Generation Station. The plant is currently evaluating various pre-treatment microfiltration filters (MF Filters) and reverse osmosis membranes for consideration in the final design of the full scale desalination plant. Additionally, separate analyses are being conducted on metal limits and water quality. The next scheduled set of analyses will involve evaluating the corrosive effects of desalinated ocean water on purveyors' distribution systems.

**Desalination Member Agency Meeting**

The five ocean-water desalination member agencies and Metropolitan Water District (MWD) have been meeting and developing regional message points for ocean-water

desalination. From those discussions, ocean desalination has been identified as an important piece to MWD's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), but it is equally important to place it in the context in the IRP. Developing regional messages and "branding" the IRP could be a more complete way to demonstrate the need for water agency partnerships to constantly plan and invest in a diverse portfolio to ensure future water reliability. Subsequently, the five member agencies met with MWD on December 1, 2003, to discuss the ongoing development of the "Desalination Message Points" and branding the IRP. Future meetings will be held to discuss the action plan for this effort. Attached as Exhibit "B" is the PowerPoint Presentation from the subject meeting.

### **Ocean-Water Desalination Outreach**

Tracey Nagelbush, Legislative Aide to Representative Jim Davis (FLA), visited West Basin on December 8. Staff updated her on West Basin's desalination efforts, covered pending U.S. Desalination Legislation, and toured West Basin's Recycling Plant and the Desalination Pilot Plant.

### **West Basin Desalination Staff Workshop**

Significant progress continues to be made in the planning and development of West Basin's Ocean-Water Desalination Project. Staff held a scoping meeting on December 15 with West Basin's consulting staff to define and layout relevant design, permitting, and budgeting issues focused on delivering the Ocean-Water Desalination Project. These findings and recommendations will be presented to the Board at the January 21, 2004 Ocean-Water Desalination Workshop.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS:

No fiscal impacts.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

None required.

#### COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on January 7, 2004 and agendized to the January 26, 2004 Board meeting as information for discussion.

#### RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

This item is for information only

#### EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Draft Legislation

Exhibit "B" - Desalination Member Agency PowerPoint Presentation