

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**OCTOBER 6, 2004 - Water Resources**
Little, Kwan**OCTOBER 25, 2004 - Board Meeting**

Prepared by: Phil Lauri/Paul Cook

Submitted by: Paul E. Shoenberger

Approved by: Richard Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION UPDATESUMMARY:**Assembly Select Committee Desalination Hearing**

The District hosted an Assembly Select Committee Hearing on September 23, at the Districts' headquarters. Members of the State Legislature were in attendance. The five member agencies of Metropolitan Water District involved in desalination gave presentations on the status of ocean-water desalination along with agencies from Northern California (San Francisco Public Utilities Agency, etc.). Lester Snow from the Department of Water Resources provided an overview of the role desalination will play in the state's future water portfolio. Assembly Members were also given the opportunity to hear from various environmental groups and their perspectives on ocean-water desalination. Assembly Members were educated and engaged on the issues and challenges surrounding the implementation of ocean desalination and the legislation that is needed to bring this water supply to reality.

Metropolitan Water District Subcommittee Tour

West Basin hosted a tour of the District's desalination pilot plant and water recycling plant for Metropolitan Water District Directors and staff on September 21, 2004. MWD Directors heard presentations by all five member agencies on the status of their ocean-water desalination research and visited the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Scattergood Power Plant, West Basin's Pilot Plant, and Long Beach's Demonstration Facility. The tour of the West Basin Desalination Pilot Plant was a great success with several of the Director's interested in the various aspects and timeframe for development and implementation of a full scale Plant.

Warm Water Conversion Project

The District's contractor proceeded with the Phase 1 portion of the Ocean-Water Desalination Pilot Plant Warm Water Conversion Project located at the El Segundo Power Plant. Phase 1 consists of excavating and locating an underground warm water connection point over the Power Plant's ocean outfall. Excavation has revealed that the designed connection point has been blocked by an undocumented underground utility. Staff is evaluating alternate connection points with El Segundo Power Plant engineers to move the Project forward. United Water Service is facilitating the implementation of the Phase 2 component of work. This work will provide the integration of a new ultrafiltration pretreatment unit and necessary enhanced piping, electrical and instrumentation work to allow operation on the Power Plant's post condenser effluent. Staff will update the Board on the progress of this work.

California Energy Commission Hearing on El Segundo Power Application

Staff attended a workshop on September 20, in the City of El Segundo, hosted by the California Energy Commission to hear public comments on the application for repowering filed by El Segundo Power for the replacement and repowering of their existing Units 1 and 2. Presentations were made by El Segundo Power and the California Energy Commission staff. Additional public comments were made by representatives from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Coastal Commission, State Land Use Commission, Department of Fish and Game, National Marine and Fisheries Service, City of Manhattan Beach, Heal the Bay, and several local community groups. The focus of the meeting was to determine whether El Segundo Power should be required to comply with the new Environmental Protection Agency regulation (Phase II of Section 316b) that requires once-through cooling power generators to perform a detailed study of the impingement and entrainment issues surrounding the intake of once-through cooling systems. Most of the public comment and California Energy Commission staff perspectives held firm to requiring the power plant to comply with this new regulation. The California Energy Commission pointed out that they have held up approving El Segundo Power's permit for the past four years, a process which was supposed to have taken no longer than one-year by law.

U.S. Desalination Coalition

The U.S. Desalination Coalition will be holding its semi-annual Board Meeting in Key West, Florida, on October 13-15. An agenda is attached (see Exhibit "A"). It is anticipated that staff and Directors will attend this meeting.

Proposition 50 Pre-proposal Meeting

West Basin and Central Basin will be hosting a Proposition 50 Customer Development Workshop with the Water Replenishment District on Wednesday, October 6, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Workshop will present information regarding the grant funding opportunities available to cities and agencies that could benefit our area. The Workshop will provide a breakdown of the various funding categories, including pertinent information such as eligibility, general criteria, Proposal Solicitation Packages, deadlines, and future public workshops.

MWD will be hosting a Proposition 50 Workshop focusing on Chapters 4(b) and 6(b) and selected programs under Chapter 4(a) on Wednesday, October 6 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The Chapter 4(b) provides grant funding for projects that reduce demand for surplus Colorado River water and assist in meeting drinking water standards. Chapter 6(b) provides grant funding for pilot and demonstration projects for removal of specific contaminants. Chapter 4(a) provides funding for several programs, and the Workshop will focus on grants for demonstration and development of new treatment technologies. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) will discuss the eligibility requirements, criteria and application process. This Special Workshop provides an opportunity to learn more about the funding process for these programs in advance of the public workshops DHS will hold in Southern California in late October.

DHS will be hosting its Proposition 50 Public Workshop at MWD on October 21 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to inform water systems about the DHS Proposition 50 programs, and to provide instruction on grant program criteria and procedures for completing and submitting pre-applications.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There are additional fiscal impacts resulting from the activities discussed in this memo. Cost impacts resulting from the operation of the Pilot Plant are included in the FY 2004-05 Capital Budget, and are also partially reimbursed through grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

None required at this time.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on October 6, 2004 and agendaized to the October 25, 2004 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

None.