

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 3, 2004 - Water Resources
Little, Dear

NOVEMBER 22, 2004 - Board Meeting

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Approved by: Richard Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

ALTERNATE REVERSE OSMOSIS (RO) MANUFACTURER TESTING

SUMMARY:

The District has two membrane manufacturers that are qualified to supply membranes to the District's recycled water Reverse Osmosis (RO) facilities. The manufacturers, Hydranautics and Koch, are the only firms currently allowed to bid on RO membranes for the District. There may be other manufacturers whose membranes could perform well on recycled water, however the performance of the membranes need to be tested before they are allowed to bid on District membrane projects. More qualified RO membrane manufacturers would increase the reliability of the supply of membranes to the District and increase competition for the District's membrane projects.

The District entered into an agreement with Separation Process, Inc. (SPI) in June 2003 to assist the District in qualifying additional RO membranes. SPI was to develop the testing protocol and assist with evaluating the membranes. The agreement expired in December 2003. The testing of other manufacturers' RO membranes has been delayed because the low-foul membrane research project was delayed. The qualifying testing is going to use the same test equipment as the low-foul membrane project.

The District has spent \$600 of the \$35,000 approved by the Board for the agreement. Staff would like to extend the term of the agreement through December 2006 so that testing of alternate reverse osmosis membrane manufacturers can be completed. Four manufacturers have expressed interest in qualifying. Each new membrane will be tested for about seven months. The agreement amount would remain the same.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are available in the Operations and Maintenance Budget for fiscal year 2004-05.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on November 3, 2004 and recommended for approval at the November 22, 2004 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co- Acting General Managers to extend the term of SPI's Agreement No. W1360 through December 2006.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.