

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**DECEMBER 8, 2004 - Water Resources**

Little, Kwan

DECEMBER 20, 2004 - Board Meeting

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Approved by: Richard Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

WEST COAST BARRIER WATER SALESSUMMARY:

The West Coast Barrier (Barrier) is operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (County) to keep saltwater out of the West Coast Basin. Water used in the Barrier is a blend of recycled water produced at the Water Recycling Plant in El Segundo and potable water delivered through Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Service Connection WB-28. West Basin bills the Water Replenishment District (WRD) for water injected into the Barrier.

Historical water deliveries to the Barrier for the past five fiscal years are shown in Exhibit "A". From fiscal year ending 2000 through 2002, total deliveries to the Barrier had averaged around 20,100 acre-feet per year. There was a drop in Barrier deliveries in fiscal year ending 2003 to approximately 17,000 acre-feet and a further drop last fiscal year to about 14,600 acre-feet. Last year's drop in Barrier deliveries were a result of shutting off some of the Barrier Wells to work on them prior to installation of a new telemetry system and a reduced need for water at the Barrier. Total sales to the Barrier are expected to be low again this year, 12,000 to 14,000 acre-feet, due to continued work on the injection Wells and installation of new valves in the existing generating station that will require shut down of flows to the Barrier for about two weeks. This fiscal year's budget included 17,500 acre-feet of water being sold to the Barrier; 7,500 acre-feet of recycled water and 10,000 acre-feet of potable water. The impact to the budget is uncertain, but is expected to be minimal because over-all sales of non-interruptible water are running ahead of the budget.

The meter at WB-28 has a capacity of 160 cubic feet per second (cfs). According to MWD's Administrative Code, flows less than 10% of the meter capacity are charged a penalty because flow measurement is inaccurate at those low-flows. Essentially, flows less than 10% of the meter capacity are charged a penalty at 10% of the meter capacity. Since June of this year, MWD has assessed low-flow penalties on WB-28 because flows have gone below the 10% threshold. The primary reasons for the low-flows at WB-28 are the increased use of recycled water at the Barrier and in the City of El Segundo over the last ten years and the construction of the new telemetry system that necessitates shut downs of injection Wells. Wells are expected to be shut down through the end of the year. WRD has requested that the penalties be waived. Staff has sent a letter to Mr. Ron Gastelum, CEO of MWD, requesting to waive the low-flow penalties (see Exhibit "B").

In the long-term, flows through WB-28 could be reduced further when Phase IV of the Barrier Treatment Expansion is completed and an additional 5 million gallons per day of recycled water is delivered to the Barrier. As a long-term solution to low-flows through WB-28, staff is working with WRD, the County, MWD, and El Segundo to replace the existing meter with a smaller one.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not certain at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on December 8, 2004 and agendaized to the December 20, 2004 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - West Coast Barrier Water Deliveries
Exhibit "B" - Low-Flows at Service Connection WB-28

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