

**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT****SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 – Water Resources**  
Little, Baker**SEPTEMBER 26, 2005 – Board Meeting**

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Approved by: Richard Nagel

## ACTION CALENDAR

SERVICE CONNECTION WB-28 METER REPLACEMENTSUMMARY:

Water used in the West Coast Barrier is a blend of recycled water produced at the West Basin Water Recycling Plant in El Segundo and potable water delivered through the Metropolitan Water District Service Connection WB-28. WB-28 serves both the Barrier and the City of El Segundo.

The meter at WB-28 has a capacity of 140 cubic feet per second (cfs). According to Metropolitan's Administrative Code, flows less than 10% of the meter capacity are charged a penalty because flow measurement is inaccurate at those low-flows. Flows at less than 10% of the meter capacity are charged at 10% of the meter capacity. Last year, Metropolitan assessed low-flow penalties on WB-28 because flows had gone below the 10% threshold. The primary reasons for the low-flows at WB-28 were the increased use of recycled water at the Barrier and in the City of El Segundo over the last ten years and the preparatory work prior to construction of a new telemetry system that necessitated shutdowns of injection Wells. Metropolitan granted a temporary re-rating of the meter to 75 cfs earlier this year to substantially reduce the low-flow penalty threshold.

Looking to the future, potable water flows to the Barrier will be reduced further when the Phase IV Expansion is complete and the District is allowed to deliver up to 75% recycled water to the Barrier. Longer-term, potable water flows to the Barrier could be close to zero if the District is allowed to supply 100% recycled water to the Barrier. Staff has been working with Metropolitan to evaluate the most cost-effective way to accommodate reduced flows through WB-28.

Metropolitan and staff looked at; 1) constructing a new, smaller meter vault; 2) installing a smaller bypass meter in the existing meter vault; and 3) removing the existing meter and replacing it with two smaller parallel meters. Constructing a new smaller meter vault was estimated to cost over \$1 million because of the depth to the existing pipe and traffic control issues. Installing a smaller bypass meter in the existing vault was not feasible because there is not enough room in the vault. The most cost-effective option is replacing the existing meter with two smaller parallel meters. One of the smaller meters would accommodate minimum flows for El Segundo if the Barrier were shut down. The other meter would accommodate maximum flows to El Segundo and the Barrier.

Metropolitan estimates that it would cost approximately \$725,000 to replace the existing meter and would require a seven-day shutdown to remove the existing meter and install a smaller meter with associated piping. Because the work involves modifications to Metropolitan's pipeline, the work would be done by Metropolitan's forces. Metropolitan estimates the project

would take a little over a year to complete. Environmental documentation for the project would be the responsibility of West Basin.

Staff recommends replacing the existing meter with the two smaller meters to avoid low-flow penalties in the future. Staff also believes it is appropriate that the District pay for the meter replacement because the reduction in flow is due to the use of recycled water in El Segundo and the Barrier.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

This project was not budgeted this fiscal year. Funds will come from the Operating Designated Fund, but will be recorded as a non-operating expense.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

West Basin will be preparing the environmental documentation.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on September 12, 2005 and was recommended for approval at the September 26, 2005 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co-General Managers to notify Metropolitan to proceed with design and construction of the WB-28 meter replacement and to pay Metropolitan in installments for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$725,000.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.