

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 – Water Resource
Little, Baker

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005 – Board Meeting

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

L.A. COUNTY WATERSHED INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING WORKGROUPSUMMARY:

The Los Angeles County Infrastructure Funding Workgroup (Workgroup) is a stakeholder group operating under the banner of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) with the primary goal of addressing urban runoff water quality associated with NPDES and TMDL compliance. The Workgroup's mission statement is as follows:

“The mission of the Los Angeles County Infrastructure Funding Workgroup is to work cooperatively to complete an integrated long-term regional watershed management plan for Los Angeles County by 2007 and develop the information needed to support a voter-approved funding mechanism by 2008 to implement the plan.”

The watershed plan and funding mechanism are intended to assist the County and its local municipalities with preparing for and paying for large anticipated costs associated with the infrastructure and public outreach/education solutions necessary to comply with new runoff quality standards (TMDLs) by 2011. To give some perspective to these future costs, the City of Santa Monica alone has identified \$200 million worth of projects, that when implemented, will achieve compliance with all current and expected TMDLs.

Watershed Management Plan

The nature and timing of this goal of the Workgroup tracks very closely the on-going Proposition 50 efforts related to developing Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMP), such as the District-led Los Angeles County South Bay IRWMP. Close coordination between the various regions of the County preparing IRWMP's, particularly on issues of runoff water quality will greatly facilitate the development of a countywide watershed management plan, also due in 2007. Like the IRWMPs, the TMDL plan will focus on integrated projects that solve runoff quality problems but also benefit one or more other watershed functions like water supply and sanitation.

Funding Mechanism

The Workgroup is laying the groundwork for a countywide ballot measure in 2008 that would seek to establish a long-term funding mechanism such as an assessment. The primary intent would be to fund water quality projects in cities throughout the County to help comply with TMDL standards. It is anticipated, however, that to receive sufficient backing and appeal to a broad voter base, other water-related and land use benefits would need to be included. The Workgroup's Education/Outreach Subcommittee is looking into conducting a public opinion poll and generating a video to advance their efforts.

The Workgroup began in 2003 as a result of two water symposiums hosted by ASCE and attended by a broad cross-section of engineering and community leaders representing municipal, county, regional, state, federal, industry, education and environmental interests. The Workgroup is still comprised of many of these interests, specifically the County (Public Works, Sanitation), various cities, Regional Board, U.S. Army Corps, environmental groups, water agencies, building industry, and consulting firms. The Chair of the Steering Committee is Michael Drennan, P.E., a Vice-President of Brown & Caldwell.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Workgroup, held on August 17, are included as Exhibit A. Water and community leaders, and other interested parties, should consider attending the next meeting on September 22. The workgroup is inviting the original leaders who attended the water symposiums in 2003 in order to assess progress and provide direction. A preliminary agenda for this meeting is included as Exhibit "B".

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on September 12, 2005 and was agendaized to the September 26, 2005 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Minutes of August 17 Workgroup Meeting
Exhibit "B" – Draft Agenda for September 22 Workgroup Meeting