

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 10, 2005 – Jt. Communications
 Kwan, Fernandez
NOVEMBER 28, 2005 - Board Meeting
 Prepared by: Gus Meza
 Submitted by: Art Aguilar
 Approved by: Art Aguilar

ACTION CALENDAR

MANHATTAN BEACH GARDEN PROJECT

SUMMARY:

The Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden (Garden) is adjacent to Polliwog Park. The Garden features a wide array of native and drought-tolerant plants. In addition to featuring water-efficient plants, the Garden also uses West Basin’s recycled water to irrigate.

The Garden was established in 1992 with support from the City, School District, Chevron, residents and others. The Garden relies on donations and support from agencies and residents to continue the maintenance, tour coordination, and promotion of the Garden. Also, local school students and residents volunteer to maintain the Garden.

One of the goals of the Garden’s President and Board of Directors is to increase communication channels with agencies, service groups, local schools, and others in an effort to increase public awareness and visitorship to the Garden.

The Garden’s Board of Directors is seeking a partnership with West Basin and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) in order to elevate the Garden’s visibility and educational components.

The Garden features the following components:

Native and drought-tolerant plants	Canopy
Small Plant Name Signs	Drinking Foundation
Pathway	Irrigation System – Recycled Water
Butterfly and insect gardens	Benches

What the Garden lacks are large, colorful and informational signs that educate visitors about the water conserving plants, recycled water use, and other functions of the Garden.

The Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden is seeking the support of West Basin and MWD to purchase seven large signs to develop a self-guided walking tour to educate the public about the advantages of using native and drought-tolerant plants. There will also be a sign that explains the advantages of using West Basin’s recycled water for irrigation.

Don McPherson and Julie Gonella, the President of the Garden, have provided West Basin with a proposal for the design and purchase of seven interpretive signs. The total cost of the signs will not exceed \$15,000.

The Board of the Garden has provided West Basin with the following evaluation factors for the signs. Since these are outdoor signs, various materials were considered. If selected, the Garden's staff will work with KVO Industries to design and install the signs. West Basin staff will assist the Garden's staff with the wording and design of the recycled water sign.

Evaluation Factors	ZED Embedded Digital	High Pressure Laminate	Porcelain Enamel
Visual Quality Parameters	Good to Excellent	Medium to Very Good	Very Good to Excellent
Durability Issues	Fair to Very Good	Fair to Excellent	Fair to Excellent
Disadvantages	Impact Damage	Image Quality	Chipping, Rusting & Cost
Cost per sign and mounting	\$1,775	\$1,625	High Cost; Not Estimated

The Garden's staff is seeking to replicate the ZED Embedded Digital signs that are in use today at LA County Exposition Park. To maximize educational potential, they will tailor the signs to mid-grade level, following the concept that was successfully employed by the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana.

After receiving the project request, staff contacted MWD landscape staff about partnering on the project. MWD offers a Community Partnering Program that provides limited funding to those projects that are deemed to provide educational value to the local communities. These projects are reviewed, scored and provide funding on a quarterly basis. The deadline for the December quarter has expired; therefore staff would submit the application for the March 2006 review and funding allocation.

As part of this program, MWD encourages Member Agencies to provide cost-sharing to show their support for a project. If the Board approves, staff will work with the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden Board to submit this project to MWD's Community Partnering Program and seek a 50% cost-share, or \$7,500.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

This project is currently unbudgeted.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the West Basin Joint Communications Committee members on November 10, 2005 and was recommended for approval at the November 28, 2005 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

That the Board:

1. Approves funding the Manhattan Beach Garden Project at a cost not-to-exceed \$15,000; and
2. Directs staff to apply for MWD's Community Partnering Program for a 50% cost-share.

EXHIBITS:

None.

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