

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 12, 2006 – Water Resources

Little, Baker

OCTOBER 30, 2006 – Board Meeting

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATESUMMARY:

West Basin Municipal Water District's (District) first Conservation Master Plan, approved by the Board in July 2006, charts an ambitious course for the District's conservation efforts, including a commitment to increased budgetary and staffing resources over time. The following report briefly summarizes staff's accomplishments during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07, the first year of implementation.

New Programs Launched

The Implementation Schedule (Exhibit A) shows what new programs are due to launch in FY 2006-07. Two new conservation programs that were identified in the master plan have been developed and launched.

The District's new "**Complete Restroom Retrofit Program**" will provide 248 Commercial, Industrial or Institutional (CII) customers with free installations of water-efficient toilets, waterfree urinals and automatic sensor sink faucets.

A new "**Laundromat Incentive Program**" has also been developed and launched and provides Laundromat owners with a \$220 incentive for the purchase of a qualifying high-efficiency coin-operated washer. Combined with MWD's, WRD's and the energy incentives, a total of \$680 is available for each washer. The prices of coin-operated washers range from \$3,000 - \$5,000.

Grants Received

To increase program cost-effectiveness, West Basin, in partnership with the South Bay Energy Savings Center, applied to MWD's Enhanced Conservation Program and was awarded funding for the "**Comprehensive Landscape Program**." This first year program, will provide free landscape water audits, and provide incentives for equipment upgrades. The program is targeting 70 acres located throughout the South Bay. Staff expects to have the contract in place with MWD by December 2006 and begin the program in the spring of 2007.

Partnerships Developed

As part of the overall partnership strategy of the master plan, several new partnerships have been developed that will help promote the District's conservation programs:

1. **South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) / South Bay Energy Savings Center (SBESC)**. Through this partnership, the SBCCOG/SBESC is promoting several of the District's new conservation programs. The following items are being implemented:
 - a. Development of a District display to be placed at the South Bay Energy Savings Center to promote the District's programs,
 - b. Promotion of the District's new Complete Restroom Retrofit Program and Laundry Incentive Program,

- c. Promotion of residential landscape classes to be held in the fall and spring, and
- d. Coordination of a "kick-off" media event in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Agency, Edison, the Gas Company, Edison and the SBCCOG/SBESC. Tentative date is November 8, 2006.

2. **South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB).** Through a partnership with the SBWIB, 12 young adults are receiving sports turf training at the California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). The young adults will also receive training on the Professional Protector Del Agua (PDA) landscape classes offered through MWD. Once trained, the SBWIB will help place the landscapers within cities in order to practice their new skills and knowledge with the goal of receiving a job.
3. **City of Torrance.** A partnership agreement has been proposed for the City of Torrance to participate in the District's conservation programs. If approved, the City will provide an estimated \$115,000 to the District to be included in several conservation programs. This partnership would allow the South Bay Energy Savings Center to market the conservation programs more uniformly throughout the entire South Bay.

Staffing

Pursuant to the FY 2006-07 budget, staff is proceeding with a recruiting process for an additional conservation staff person. This position is critical to the successful implementation of the master plan, particularly the Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Program.

Upcoming

- Proposition 50 – Water Use Efficiency Grants (October / November 2006); and
- Residential Irrigation Controller Distribution Program Developed & Launched (2007)

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds to implement new conservation programs and partnerships have been included in the FY 2005-06 Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on October 12, 2006 and agendized to the October 30, 2006 Special Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" 5-Year Implementation Plan