

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 12, 2006 – Water Resources

Little, Baker

OCTOBER 30, 2006 – Board Meeting

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT ACTIVITIES UPDATESUMMARY:

This staff report on Metropolitan Water District (MWD) issues is intended to brief West Basin Municipal Water District (District) Directors on activities and issues relevant to the District and its customer agencies. The first section, "On-Going Issues" is a status update on current studies, reports, and/or policy work groups that staff is involved with. The second section, "Current Month's Issues," is a report on noteworthy items that are being covered at the current month's MWD board meeting. The last section, "Upcoming issues" is a preview of new and forthcoming issues important to the District. This format is intended to keep the Board informed about current and future items at MWD in order to provide direction to staff and its MWD representatives in a timely manner, if required.

ON-GOING ISSUES**Local Resources Program (LRP) Working Group**

Purpose: MWD formed this Work Group to re-assess the policy framework that determines how often and in what manner LRP projects are selected, the incentive payment structure, and the total project yield needed to meet supply development targets. The District holds one of the largest LRP contracts with MWD, and our water recycling program has delivered more local water than any other single LRP-funded project by far. Therefore, we have a keen interest in what direction MWD takes the LRP process.

Update: Staff has attended both working group meetings thus far and has been playing an active role in framing the issues at these meetings. Among the major policy issues open for discussion have been:

- Continue paying for water produced, or consider paying up front for capital requirements;
- Continue the competitive process for selecting local projects, or take first come, first served; and
- Continue the competitive process, but modifying the selection criteria and/or weighting;

West Basin has emphasized to MWD that the goals of the process should be to bring local yield on-line in a timely manner, and in quantities sufficient to meet or exceed LRP targets. Staff looks forward to achieving these goals in a policy framework that is equitable to all. Staff plans on laying out its own recommended policy principles prior to the next meeting in October.

## **Report on Groundwater Capabilities**

Purpose: Earlier in the year MWD's Board directed staff to assess the groundwater storage capability within each groundwater basin in MWD's service area. The purpose was to determine the physical, operational, and institutional issues related to potentially storing more imported water.

Update: Thus far, MWD staff has conducted a service area-wide survey of groundwater basin managers. The District, with the assistance of the Water Replenishment District (WRD), filled out the groundwater survey displaying all of West Coast Basin's groundwater capability as well as the institutional issues (Judgment) regarding storage. This month, MWD staff will present the findings of this groundwater study and indicate the aggregate groundwater capability within its service area. Staff will present findings, if available, to the October Water Resources Committee.

## **CURRENT MONTH'S ISSUES**

### **Report on Fiscal Year 2006-07 Enhanced Conservation Program Grant Recipients**

Summary: In May, MWD issued a "Request for Proposal" to fund up to \$250 per acre foot (AF) for cost-effective water conservation projects that promote new creative ways to increase participation in water efficiency measures (MWD's standard incentives are based on \$195/AF). This month, MWD will present to the Board the 15 projects selected out of the 22 submitted applications. The District was successful with one of its two applications, the "Comprehensive Landscape Program," which was awarded \$30,000. Staff plans on contacting MWD staff later this month for a debriefing on both proposals. Staff will share a complete list of awardees at the October Water Resources Committee.

### **Proposed Action Plan Regarding Review of Metropolitan's Water Supply and Delivery capability**

Summary: In light of the recent controversial water transfer projects, the MWD Board called for the re-examination of MWD water transfer policy. Last month, MWD's Water Planning, Quality and Resources Committee determined that a proper assessment of MWD water transfer policy cannot occur without first reviewing and assessing all water supply and delivery options. MWD staff has responded with an Action Plan that combines this request with other on-going work on the Integrated Area Studies, and Groundwater Assessment Study (see above, to determine if water transfers are needed. Staff will present details of the proposed Action Plan, if available, to the October Water Resources Committee.

### **2006 IRP Implementation Report**

Summary: This is an annual report presented to the Board on the status of MWD's Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). The report will illustrate MWD's annual gains in local resource development, conservation, groundwater storage, and imported water supplies compared with the established targets set forth in MWD's 2004 IRP update. Staff has not seen the report or MWD's staff analysis/recommendation. More information will be provided to the October Water Resources Committee.

**UPCOMING ISSUES**

**“Carbon Footprint” Assessment**

In light of recent legislation enacted by the Swarzenegger Administration (AB32) requiring California’s Green House Gas Emissions to be reduced to 1990 levels, MWD is assessing its energy usage and sources. MWD is also facilitating information sharing with Member Agencies on alternative energy sources and efficient practices. MWD will be reporting findings to its Board in upcoming months.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

**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 under MWD Activities.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

This item is for information only.

**LIST OF EXHIBITS:**

Exhibit “A” – Selected Enhanced Conservation Programs