

**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT****OCTOBER 16 , 2006 – Communications**

Little, Kwan

**OCTOBER 30, 2006 - Board Meeting**

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## INFORMATION CALENDAR

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATESUMMARY:

The California Legislature adjourned for the year on August 31. Upon conclusion, the Legislature forwarded over 1,000 bills to the Governor's Office for signature.

West Basin actively supported or monitored several key bills that were ultimately passed during the 2006 legislative session. Once passed, the Governor had until September 31 to sign legislation into law or veto the bill.

**Measures signed by the Governor**

SB 1650 / Eminent Domain – This bill implements small reforms to eminent domain law.

SB 1317 / Property Tax Allocation – This bill provides a new system for allocating property tax revenues for specific state-assessed public utility property.

AB 371 / Water Recycling – This bill will implement recommendations from the Water Recycling Task Force.

AB 1881 / Water Conservation – This legislation reauthorizes the Department of Water Resources to prepare a new local water efficient landscape ordinance. West Basin, in conjunction with other agencies (including MWD), supported this bill, which passed both the Senate and Assembly by unanimous votes.

**Measures vetoed by the Governor**

SB 187 / Drinking Water Contaminants – This bill would have authorized the Department of Health Services to consider the potential affects that may result from the adoption of a primary drinking standard that is less stringent than the public health goal.

SB 1640 / Water – This bill would have amended disclosure requirements in specific situations, as to water use and planning.

AB 2496 / Water Conservation – This bill required that all tank and flushometer type water closets sold or installed in new buildings use less water than currently permitted by state law and provides specified requirements, until January 1, 2009, for waterless urinals sold or installed in the State of California (requiring water supply 'rough in' features).

## **2007-08 Legislative Session – A Look Forward**

Membership - The Legislature that convenes in January of 2007 will be dramatically different from the recently-concluded session due to member term limits. Staff will closely follow the process of legislative committee assignments and chairmanships, as well as how membership changes may alter the political or policy directions going forward.

On the Senate side, West Basin's delegation of Kuehl, Vincent, Murray and Bowen loses two members (Murray and Bowen). They are likely to be succeeded in the November elections by current Assembly Members Mark Ridley-Thomas and Jenny Oropeza, respectively.

In the Assembly, five of the nine members of the West Basin delegation will be leaving their office due to term limits or aspirations for another elected office. Term limits will result in the departures of Assembly Members Jerome Horton, Paul Koretz, Jenny Oropeza and Fran Pavley. Assembly Member Mark Ridley-Thomas is leaving the Assembly early in hopes of succeeding Senator Kevin Murray, and as noted above, Assembly Member Oropeza is a front-runner to replace Senator Bowen. Successors to Horton, Koretz, Oropeza, Pavley and Ridley-Thomas are projected to be Curren Price, Mike Feuer, Laura Richardson, Julia Brownley and Mike Davis, respectively.

Legislative Initiatives - The next session of the California Legislature will revisit several of the same initiatives or themes as in the past session. Staff will continue to monitor these initiatives, bills, bond measures and funding packages as they move forward. Staff will also manage the District's lobbyists and work with coalition partners and key partner agencies/districts to achieve favorable legislative outcomes.

Key among these bills is SB 1242, by Senator Lowenthal, pertaining to the "Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act". Originally introduced in the 2005-06 session, this bill defines the criteria for participating in the adoption of an integrated regional water management plan.

Ongoing discussions will center on the guidelines for regional participation, the Proposition 50 grant application process and other key issues. The General Manager and staff will continue to work with key parties, including the Long Beach Water Department, the Department of Water Resources, and member agencies/cities within the greater Los Angeles region. Staff will closely monitor this measure as it is reintroduced during the upcoming session.

### **Previous Information Item**

Federal Government Officials Tour Recycling Plant - On September 21, West Basin hosted officials from the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and MWD for a tour of the District's Recycling Facility. Special appreciation was offered to the federal government guests for their agencies' funding contributions and support over the years as the Facility was constructed and expanded.

### **FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on October 16, 2006 and agendaized to the October 30, 2006 Special Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

None.

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