

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 16, 2006 – Water Resources
Little, Kwan

NOVEMBER 27, 2006 – Board Meeting

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Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

CONJUNCTIVE USE FACILITATED PROCESS

SUMMARY:

The firm of Gordon Thomas Honeywell was selected by the Department of Water Resources and hired by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to bring groundwater producers, water suppliers, and other stakeholders in the Central and West Coast Basins to agreement on a policy framework for implementing groundwater storage. This is the second attempt at outside facilitation for conjunctive use – the first resulting in an impasse after more than a year of stakeholder meetings. The proposed facilitators, James C. Waldo and B.J. Mirk have broad experience in complex water issues and a record of successfully facilitating other negotiations, for example, Metropolitan Water District's Rate Refinement Process and wheeling and long-term supply issues with San Diego County Water Authority.

The scope of the contract shows a desire for a more streamlined process: 1) a six month maximum time frame to reach resolution, and 2) individual meetings with stakeholders rather than large group meetings. The facilitated cost is estimated at \$150,000.

Interviews to gather background information began in September. West Basin staff was interviewed in October. Next steps in this process are to compile all of the information received and put together a "straw man" proposal to be available for review beginning early next year.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on November 16, 2006 and agendized to the November 27, 2006 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.