

**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2006 - Water Resources**  
Little, Kwan

**NOVEMBER 27, 2006 - Board Meeting**

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INFORMATION CALENDAR

TEMPORARY OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
PHASE B – CEQA COMPLIANCE & PERMITTING

SUMMARY:

The West Basin Municipal Water District (District) has been progressively working towards implementation of an ocean-water desalination demonstration facility to acquire full-scale operational and water quality experience. As part of the process of implementing a temporary demonstration facility, the District procured the services of MWH in August 2006 to provide a multi-tasked assessment of the District's Temporary Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Project. MWH's initial phase (Phase A) of work contains a wide "Scope of Work", which includes a water source assessment, process analysis, siting and feasibility study, environmental and permitting evaluation, cost estimating, and operational protocol analysis. While the Phase A "Scope of Work" is scheduled to span ten months, MWH has completed three of the most critical studies (water quality, permitting, and process evaluation) that have assisted the District in selecting the most appropriate demonstration site. These studies evaluate the three sites (El Segundo Power, Redondo Beach AES-south site, and Sea Lab) in regards to their ability to provide ample space, an adequate raw water source, and the permitting requirements/benefits/challenges that encompass each site. In addition, West Basin has also been working with local community groups and cities to acquire public input and gauge support for each of the proposed site locations and each site's integration characteristics and the Project's transferability of data to the full scale project.

**CEQA/Permitting**

Permitting of the temporary demonstration project will be the most extensive and time critical component to the implementation of the demonstration project. The District is moving forward in a manner to have the temporary demonstration facility operational by the Fall of 2008. To meet this schedule, the California Environmental Quality Act assessment and associated studies must begin as soon as possible. Additionally, permitting by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Coastal Commission cannot commence until all CEQA activities are complete. It is expected that the complete list of environmental studies and permitting activities will take a minimum of 18 to 20 months. Staff will bring a proposed project cost to the Board at a future meeting for consideration.

Staff has requested MWH to provide a proposal for the Phase B portion of work that would assist the District in the environmental assessments and permitting work. MWH was competitively selected to assist the District in the various stages of implementation that include the planning/feasibility, permitting, design, construction, and operations of the temporary demonstration facility. MWH's "Scope of Work" will include the complete performance and compliance of all CEQA related studies, analyses, and processing of a final CEQA determination, regulatory permit processing and supporting activities with regulators, and overall project permitting coordination.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds for this project are available from the Construction fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Environmental requirements for this project will be evaluated as part of the permit application.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on November 16, 2006 and agendaized to the November 27, 2006 Board meeting Consent Calendar.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

None.

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