

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**JUNE 15, 2007 - Water Resources
Smith (Chair), Little****JUNE 21, 2007 - Board Meeting**

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Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ANTISCALANTSUMMARY:

Antiscalant is used in the reverse osmosis (RO) treatment process to help inhibit scaling of the RO elements. Antiscalants are typically proprietary chemicals that must be tested on West Basin Municipal Water District's (District) recycled water to verify that it will inhibit scaling. The current antiscalant contract expires in October of this year. The District's current supplier is King Lee Technologies and has been supplying antiscalant to the District since 2001. The contract was awarded after a bid process and after passing pilot testing to verify that it inhibited scaling. Their bid price at that time was \$0.98 per pound. In 2002, the Board approved a one-year extension for the same price, in 2003 another one-year extension was approved at \$0.85 per pound, and in 2004 a three-year extension was approved at \$0.79 per pound.

King Lee has sent a letter to the District offering to extend the contract for three to five years for \$0.71 per pound, a 10% reduction from current pricing. Staff has looked at other antiscalant pricing and believes this is on the low end of the market.

Another factor in the overall cost of RO treatment is the pH of the water. The pH of the recycled water is important for the antiscalant to work properly. The District uses sulfuric acid to lower the pH to approximately 6.3. The lower the pH the more acid that has to be used. To try and optimize the sulfuric acid dose, staff is pilot testing the King Lee antiscalant to see if it will work at a higher pH, reducing the amount of acid required in the RO process.

To move forward, staff evaluated extending King Lee's contract for three to five years at \$0.71 per pound. King Lee's product has proven effective on the District's recycled water. Staff surveyed some agencies that use antiscalant and found that the price ranged from \$0.66 per pound to \$1.45 per pound. However, the lowest price was from a manufacturer whose product did not work on West Basin's recycled water when it was tested six years ago. If tests on the District's current antiscalant are successful, overall costs could be reduced further by reducing the amount of sulfuric acid used.

Staff also looked at issuing a "Request for Bids" (RFB) for antiscalant. The cost of sulfuric acid required to maintain the manufacturer's recommended pH would also be included in evaluating the bids. The contract would be awarded to the firm with the lowest combined antiscalant and acid cost. The selected antiscalant, if not used successfully at the District previously, would have to be pilot tested on the District's recycled water to verify that it would inhibit scaling prior to use at all the RO facilities.

After reviewing these options and taking into consideration the length of the current contract, staff believes that issuing an RFB is in the best interest of the District. Although the price for antiscalant is attractive, staff feels it is prudent to investigate whether sulfuric acid costs can also be reduced by operating at a higher pH.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on June 15, 2007 and the Committee requested staff contact the current supplier to extend the contract for a 2-year period at the \$0.71 per pound. The Committee agendaized this Item to the June 21, 2007 Board meeting as an Action Item for consideration.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board considers extending King Lee's contract for a 2-year term at the \$0.71 per pound.

EXHIBITS:

None.

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