



**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Suite 210  
Carson, CA 90746

**AGENDA NO. 25**

**OCTOBER 8, 2008 – Communications**  
Kwan (Chair), Gray  
**OCTOBER 27, 2008 – Board Meeting**  
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Submitted by: Fernando Paludi  
Approved by: Rich Nagel

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

### ZERO-RUNOFF STREET MEDIAN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

#### SUMMARY:

West Basin was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Metropolitan Water District through their annual Enhanced Conservation Program. This Zero-Runoff Street Median Water Conservation Program is a Pilot Program that will specifically target street medians by developing a simple grant program within West Basin's service area to reduce water use and improve irrigation practices on street medians. Cities will be asked to propose designs to retrofit existing street medians using the "zero-runoff" concept. This concept replaces existing median vegetation or irrigation with any of the following components to provide a zero net runoff: artificial turf, porous cover, native and/or drought tolerant plants, drip irrigation, or Smart Irrigation Controllers.

Each interested City is required to submit an application (Exhibit A) requesting the following information:

- Application Form (3 pages)
- Design (3-5 pages)
  - Blueprint/conceptual design
  - Photos (3-5) of current site
  - Listing of plant palette to be used in Project
- Schedule for completion (project must be completed within 6-8 months of award date) (1 page)
- Maintenance Plan (1 page)

Up to 50% of the costs may be awarded, but no more than \$10,000 per applicant. There will be two rounds of funding, one in Fiscal Year 2008-09 and one in 2009-10, with five (5) grants awarded per round. The applications for this first round are due on December 12, 2008.

#### Selection Process

A team convened by West Basin will review proposed designs and fund grant applications that provide the maximum reduction in water use (with a minimum of reduction of 50%) and eliminate runoff. The review team will award funding on a competitive basis; however, they will be conscious of providing equity among the Divisions.

### Outreach Strategy

The application packet was sent to each Public Works Director in the 17 cities within West Basin's service area (Exhibit A) with a cover letter. The program will also be announced in the following ways:

- SBCCOG Infrastructure Working Group – September 24
- West Basin Water Association – October 7
- West Basin's Conservation Partners Roundtable – October 23
- SBCCOG Green Cities Task Force – October 30
- West Basin Water Association – November 4
- Follow-up calls to Public Works Directors – November/December

### Program Goals

The project is anticipated to save approximately 62 acre-feet of water per year and eliminate runoff.

### Coordination with Directors

In addition to the outreach strategy that staff will conduct, the Directors may want to send a letter directly to their cities encouraging them to apply. Staff will provide assistance with this if the Directors choose. In addition, once the medians are retrofitted, there may be an opportunity for a check presentation of the funding awarded at or near the location of the retrofit.

### STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 1, Reliability – Maintain a level of local water reliability that supports the regional economy, our community and customer agency needs.

Goal 5, Customer/Community Services – Provide for the needs of our customer agencies and the communities we serve in a way that reflects their needs.

Goal 8, Finance – Manage finances to optimize the public's investment return and minimize risk.

### COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

Water Reliability – West Basin is committed to innovative planning and investments to provide water supply reliability and drought protection.

Customer Service – West Basin is committed to providing value by understanding and meeting the needs of our customers and the communities we serve.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

West Basin's total financial contribution for the program is \$30,000 for Project Administration over 2 years. Half of these funds have been budgeted in the current fiscal year budget and the other half will be budgeted in next year's fiscal year budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

None.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on October 8, 2008 and agendaized to the October 27, 2008 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Application Packet