

RESOLUTION NO. 12-08-882

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE TEMPORARY OCEAN WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, West Basin Municipal Water District has initiated an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Temporary Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Project for purpose of studying various alternative intake technologies, processes and sustainable operation on property 1021 North Harbor Drive within the City of Redondo Beach, County of Los Angeles, State of California,

WHEREAS, the Project includes a temporary ocean-water desalination demonstration facility utilizing approximately 580,000 gallons per day (GPD) of open ocean water (via an existing AES intake tunnel), improvements to the abandoned AES pumphouse, and using an adjacent 40' x 100' area (the "South Yard") for desalination equipment, and other minor improvements. The Project will also utilize portions of the AES parking lot across North Harbor Drive, for construction parking and staging, and for employee/visitor parking when the Temporary Facility is operational. The Temporary Facility includes the following key components: facility construction/staging, temporary desalination facility, pumphouse improvements, south yard equipment area, modified ocean intake/wedgewire system, subsurface intake pilot study, AES parking/staging area, water quality sampling station, marine research studies, residuals management, infrastructure/utilities, maintenance/replacement activities, and decommissioning.

WHEREAS, West Basin, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), determined a need to prepare an EIR for the Project. The intent of this review process is to serve as the CEQA clearance document, to minimize or avoid the need for further environmental review.

WHEREAS, a Notice of Preparation of a draft EIR was issued on January 22, 2008 allowing a thirty day comment and review period in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, although not required by CEQA, West Basin held three duly noticed public scoping meetings on February 5, 7 and 11, 2008 to solicit input from the general public, regulatory agencies and environmental organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Draft EIR was circulated to the public on October 22, 2008 to December 5, 2008 for comment and review in accordance with applicable CEQA Guidelines, with copies available at the District office, City of Redondo Beach Main Library and District website; and

WHEREAS, although not required by CEQA, West Basin held two duly noticed Draft EIR public meetings on November 10, 2008 to receive comments on the Draft EIR from the general public and environmental organizations, during which West Basin staff responded to various questions from the attendees; and

WHEREAS, written comments on the Draft EIR were received from the following agencies and other interested parties:

1. Elmer Alvarez, IGR/CEQA Program Manager, Department of Transportation, District 7 Regional Planning
2. Gail Newton, Chief, Division of Environmental Planning and Management, California State Lands Commission
3. Randy Berler, Planning Director, City of Redondo Beach
4. Sarah Abramson, MESM, Coastal Resources Director, Heal the Bay and Charlotte Stevenson, MS, Staff Scientist, Heal the Bay
5. Tom Luster, Energy, Ocean Resources, and Federal Consistency Division, California Coastal Commission
6. Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Policy Specialist, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
7. Rodney McInnis, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2008, West Basin's Water Resources Committee reviewed the proposed Final EIR, including draft Responses to Comments and related documents, and recommended that the Final EIR and project be forwarded to the District Board for consideration;

WHEREAS, West Basin has prepared the "Final EIR" for the project, which includes the following components:

- 1) "Volume I" - the Draft EIR and Technical Appendices
- 2) "Volume II" - Response to Comments and Errata
- 3) Oral testimony and presentations made at public meetings for the EIR
- 4) The December 22, 2008 Board memo and attachments
- 5) Documents cited or incorporated by reference into the Final EIR

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a duly noticed public meeting where any and all members of the public were allowed to comment on the Final EIR, project and related documents, and received public testimony with respect to environmental documentation on the 22nd day of December 2008;

WHEREAS, West Basin has reviewed and considered the Water Resources Committee comments, environmental information contained in the EIR, all staff reports, oral and written testimony

given at public meeting on the Project, and all other matters deemed material and relevant prior to adopting this Resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors as follows:

Section 1: The Board hereby finds that:

- 1) The Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
- 2) The Final EIR was presented to the decision making body of the lead agency and that the decision making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR and related documents, along with public comments at the December 22, 2008 Board meeting prior to approving the project; and
- 3) The Final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

Section 2: The Board hereby certifies the Temporary Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Project Final EIR as being in full compliance in accordance with CEQA requirements.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of December, 2008.

President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

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