



**WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Suite 210  
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**AGENDA NO. 11**

**DECEMBER 10, 2008 – Water Resources**  
Smith (Chair), Little  
**DECEMBER 22, 2008 – Board Meeting**  
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Submitted by: Paul Shoenberger  
Approved by: Rich Nagel

## ACTION CALENDAR

### TEMPORARY OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND PROJECT APPROVAL

#### SUMMARY:

#### **Project Background**

The Temporary Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Project (Temporary Facility) represents an important milestone and further progress in West Basin's ocean-water desalination program, building upon the successful pilot project located at the El Segundo Power Plant. Between the 2005 and 2006 grant funding process, West Basin was awarded approximately a combined total of \$2.25 million under three (3) grants for its ocean-water desalination program facilitated by the California Department of Water Resources through Proposition 50. The Temporary Facility represents the next step in developing ocean-water desalination as a regional water supply resource in support of West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 Program.

#### **Project Summary**

The Temporary Facility has been developed over the last 24 months through an intensive design and permitting effort. The Temporary Facility has been designed as a "Demonstration Project" to test representative full-scale equipment and to evaluate environmentally friendly intake technologies. The Temporary Facility is proposed to be co-located at the Science, Education and Adventure Lab (SEA Lab), located in Redondo Beach's King Harbor which is operated by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. On January 16, 2008, West Basin signed a sublease agreement with SEA Lab, specifying the terms and conditions of facility construction, operation and decommissioning, subject to securing appropriate permits and approvals.

The Temporary Facility includes the following key components:

1. A five-year sublease, with up to two one-year extensions, commencing January 2008;
2. Implementation of and operation of a 580,000 gallon per day (GPD) raw ocean water intake and outfall used to provide and discharge feedwater and concentrate, respectively, to a 100,000 (GPD) microfiltration and reverse osmosis (RO) train and a 80,000 GPD subsurface intake pilot;
3. Construction of an equipment pad/canopy structure and improvements to the existing decommissioned pump house to be used as part of the Temporary Facility;
4. A passive wedgewire screen system using the existing SEA Lab intake tunnel to evaluate technologies to avoid or minimize marine life impacts due to ocean-water

intake systems;

5. Evaluation of a subsurface intake pilot to evaluate marine life and water quality effects of drawing feedwater through sand media;
6. Utilization of a portion of the AES property for construction staging and parking, and facility operational parking; and
7. Facility decommissioning following completion of the demonstration period.

## **CEQA Process**

In order to approve and construct the Temporary Facility, West Basin must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Accordingly, West Basin has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to provide for full public disclosure of potential impacts, identify mitigation measures, and seek public input as part of the CEQA process. This EIR was prepared in compliance with CEQA and West Basin's policies and practices. As part of the EIR process, West Basin prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP), which was subject to a CEQA-required 30-day public review period. West Basin received several NOP comments that were considered as part of the EIR preparation process.

## **Notice of Preparation Process**

The NOP 30-day public review period ran from January 22 to February 20, 2008 (refer to Draft EIR, Appendix "A" for the "Expanded Notice of Preparation"). Although not required by CEQA, West Basin also held three (3) public scoping meetings during the 30-day NOP review period, including a meeting on February 5 (with regulatory agencies), February 7 (for the general public) and February 11 (with environmental organizations). West Basin's public noticing program included an extensive interest list for agencies, organizations and individuals, a local newspaper notice (in the *Daily Breeze*), posting the NOP at the County Clerk's office, and sending the NOP to a 300-mile radius mailing list. During this time, staff also met with and solicited input from various stakeholders, including local King Harbor interests and the City of Redondo Beach.

## **Draft EIR Technical Studies**

In addition to an extensive array of preliminary technical memoranda developed as part of the project's initial feasibility studies, and comprehensive preliminary engineering plans, the Draft EIR included the following technical studies:

- *Air Quality Data* – Parenthetical URBEMIS2007 Version 9.2.4 Assumptions, prepared by RBF Consulting, June 22, 2007.
- *Biological Resources Reports* – Wedge-Wire Intake Screen Flow Analysis, prepared by Scott A. Jenkins Consulting, September 19, 2008, and Draft Desalination Demonstration Facility Marine Resources Analysis, prepared by MWH Americas, Inc., July 2007 (revised December 2008).
- *Geotechnical Reports* – Geotechnical Investigation Report Addendum and Geotechnical Investigation Report, prepared by URS, February 1, 2008 (addendum prepared on July 15, 2008).

- Noise Data – Acoustical Analysis Report Data, prepared by RBF Consulting, June 22, 2007.
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report – prepared by MWH Americas, Inc., June 2007.
- Receiving Water Quality Report – Draft Receiving Water Dilution Analysis, prepared by MWH Americas, Inc., July 2007 (revised December 2008).
- Historic Resources Report – Historic Architectural Survey Report, prepared by Galvin Preservation Associates, Inc., April 2007.
- Cultural Resources Report – Paleontological and Archaeological Literature Study, prepared by Cogstone Resources Management, Inc., June 2007 (revised October 2008).

### **Draft EIR Process**

West Basin released the Draft EIR for a 45-day public review period that spans from October 22, 2008 through December 5, 2008. Staff conducted a workshop with environmental stakeholders on November 10, 2008 at the SEA Lab in Redondo Beach. Staff also hosted a public meeting to present the project concepts and address any questions by public stakeholders at a meeting on November 10, 2008 at the SEA Lab. The public comment period closed on December 5, 2008.

### **Final EIR Process**

Following close of the 45-day public review period, staff prepared “Responses to Comments” and Errata to the Draft EIR for consideration by the Board as part of the Final EIR. The Board is scheduled to consider certification of the Final EIR at the December 22, 2008 Board Meeting. In order to meet CEQA’s required 10-day period during which the Final EIR must be available prior to certification, staff distributed the Final EIR on December 11, 2008 to be received by commenting parties by December 12, 2008. Staff presented to the Water Resources Committee the Draft EIR public comments and a status report and summary of proposed responses to public comments. Staff also presented the Findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and stated that the Board would need to adopt resolutions certifying these documents.

### **Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

All potential impacts can be mitigated to less than significant levels due to Project Design Features and through implementation of recommended mitigation measures as set forth in the Draft EIR, with the exception of liquefaction. Considering the temporary nature of the proposed South Equipment Yard canopy, a concrete mat foundation rather than an extensive system of driven piles will be implemented as part of the final design. Although this approach substantially reduces construction cost and certain environmental impacts associated with pile construction methodology, it is recognized that the canopy structure could sustain damage due to liquefaction in the event of a large seismic event. The canopy structure has been designed to allow differential settlement to minimize any substantial damage in the event of a large seismic event.

## **Board Meeting Actions**

As part of the certification process, it is recommended that the Board open the public meeting for public comment on this action. It is also suggested that the Board consider approving the EIR for certification and providing a Project approval with the related Statements of Facts and Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. These approvals are contained in the Recommended Motions and attached resolutions (Exhibits "B" and "C") for the Board's consideration.

### 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 7, Infrastructure – Manage infrastructure to ensure reliability, manage risk, and maximize the useful life of facilities.

### COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

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

### FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are included in the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Ocean-Water Desalination Capital Budget.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

This project is being performed and approved in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

### COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on December 10, 2008 and agendaized to the December 22, 2008 Board meeting without a Committee recommendation.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Directors:

- 1) Open the agenda item by allowing for public comments regarding the adequacy of the proposed Final EIR and regarding the proposed Project approval;
- 2) Approves, adopts and authorizes the President to sign Resolution No. 12-08-882 "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE TEMPORARY OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT"; and

- 3) Approves, adopts and authorizes the President to sign Resolution No. 12-08-883 "A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING CEQA FINDINGS, STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND APPROVING THE TEMPORARY OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT."

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit "A" - Final EIR "Volume II" – Responses to Comments and Errata
- Exhibit "B" - Resolution No. 12-08-882 – EIR Certification
- Exhibit "C" - Resolution No. 12-08-883 – Project Approval (with attachments)