



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

**AGENDA NO. 28**

**DECEMBER 12, 2008 – Communications**  
Kwan (Chair), Gray  
**DECEMBER 22, 2008 – Board Meeting**  
Prepared by: Darryl Ramos-Young  
Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth  
Approved by: Rich Nagel

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

#### SUMMARY:

At the July 2008 Finance Committee, the Committee recommended that West Basin establish a college scholarship program for high school graduates interested in pursuing a career in the water industry. Initiation of a scholarship program will demonstrate to the community that West Basin values education, supports its local community and encourages youth to consider careers in the water industry. West Basin would receive positive coverage in local papers, raise the awareness of West Basin, and receive additional recognition during awards ceremonies at the scholarship recipients' high schools. Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded within each of the five (5) Divisions for a total of 10 scholarships and a total of \$10,000 in awards for the 2008-09 academic school year.

The scholarship program will be announced in West Basin's January 2009 *WaterWorks Educators Newsletter* that will be mailed to teachers on the West Basin mailing list, the public and private schools in the service area, school district administrators, West Basin's Solar Cup 2009 team members and the Surfrider Foundation's Teach & Test high school water quality monitoring volunteers. In addition, the program announcement and application form will be posted on the West Basin web site, and distributed specifically to local high school counseling offices and college career centers. Applications will be due on March 31, 2009. Applications will be reviewed and top candidates invited to an interview with the scholarship selection committee in April, with awards being recognized at school site ceremonies throughout May and June. To assist in the review of applications, staff is currently seeking board recommendations for possible candidates for scholarship review committee members.

Under Director Gray's recommendation, staff is attempting to identify the feasibility of the Inglewood Leadership Council and the Inglewood Educational Foundation in conducting the scholarship promotion, applicant recruitment, and program logistics for Division II. Staff also researched and determined that other local and regional foundations will not be able to implement the remaining awards for Divisions I, III, IV and V in order to conserve staff time for current missions. As a result, the work hours and responsibilities of one of the West Basin Tour Guide positions will need to be increased to support the scholarship program promotion, logistics and coordination of final selection by the Board.

#### STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 6, Communications - Engage in effective two-way communications of West Basin's programs and policies with the customer agencies and communities we serve.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

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:

\$10,000 has been identified from the Water Awareness - Outreach budget to fund two \$1,000 scholarships in each Division for public and private high school seniors desiring a career in the water industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on December 12, 2008 and agendaized to the December 22, 2008 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – West Basin Board of Directors Scholarship Announcement & Guidelines  
Exhibit "B" - Application