

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 6, 2008 - Communications

Kwan (Chair), Gray

FEBRUARY 25, 2008 - Board Meeting

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## ACTION CALENDAR

CITY OF SANTA MONICA GRANT APPLICATION - REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATIONSUMMARY:

The City of Santa Monica is developing a regional conservation project and has invited West Basin and three other local Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Member Agencies (Torrance, LADWP and Long Beach) to collaborate on the project. The project entails developing a multi-discipline website and accompanying CD that contains information on water-wise gardening, water run-off issues, water permeability and retention, and waste management. Both the website and CD will have a photo gallery of native plants that are indigenous to our local service area.

**Benefits**

This project will be similar to MWD's "Be Water Wise" website and CD, but will focus specifically on plants that are native to West Basin's and other partnering agencies' service areas. It will provide information on plants that do well in both coastal and coastal inland areas, which are currently not covered in MWD's materials. West Basin will have an opportunity to showcase native gardens that are located in its service area, including the South Coast Botanical Garden in Palos Verdes, the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, and others. West Basin's conservation programs will be featured on the website including the Green Garden Program that offers free "Smart" controllers and landscape classes, as well as a link to the West Basin website.

The website will provide cities and residents with useful information such as developing a native plant garden or purchasing native plants. It will also provide information on "smart" sprinkler controllers, drip irrigation and other water conserving measures. Since 50% of water is used outdoors, these tools will help and encourage residents to conserve water.

**Conservation Master Plan**

This project is helping to educate the public on outdoor water conservation. West Basin's Conservation Master Plan identifies education and outreach as a complimentary component to West Basin's device driven programs. In addition to providing residents with "smart" controllers through its programs, this project will provide residents with information on how to design a water smart garden and use devices to help conserve water. This project helps meet the goals of the Conservation Master Plan by providing educational materials to the public.