



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

AGENDA NO. 25

August 6, 2008 – Communications
Kwan (Chair), Gray
August 25, 2008 – Board Meeting
Prepared by: Ron Wildermuth
Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth
Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMARY:

At the July 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 and application guidelines (Exhibit A). Initiation of a scholarship program will demonstrate to the community that West Basin values education, supports its local community and encourages youth to consider pursuing careers in the water industry.

In addition to promoting water sciences/field of study with the future workforce, 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 Divisions for a total of 10 scholarships and a total of \$10,000 in awards for the 2008-09 academic school year.

Director Gray recommends, for Division II, the scholarship promotion, applicant recruitment, and program logistics be managed by the Inglewood Leadership Council and the Inglewood Educational Foundation with West Basin staff oversight. Staff is currently exploring methods to effectively and efficiently implement the remaining awards for Divisions I, III, IV and V. These methods could include:

1. Identifying and selecting foundations in each Division that have experience and the capacity to manage the West Basin scholarship program by Division.
2. Contracting a regional foundation for a nominal fee to manage the West Basin scholarship program for Divisions I, III, IV and V.
3. Increasing the work hours and responsibilities of one of the West Basin Tour Guide positions to oversee the scholarship program promotion and logistics.

Staff projects that the promotion of the scholarship program will begin this fall with notification to school district administrators, school counselors and university career center counselors and financial aid officers. Scholarship applications will be due in March, submissions reviewed by the scholarship review committee in April, and scholarships awarded at the end of May in preparation for school award ceremonies in mid-June.

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 at the Communications Committee meeting on August 6, 2008 and agendaized to August 25, 2008 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Draft Scholarship Program Guidelines and Application