



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

AGENDA NO. _____

SEPTEMBER 3, 2008 – Communications
Kwan (Chair), Gray
SEPTEMBER 22, 2008 – Board Meeting
Prepared by: Leighanne Reeser
Submitted by: Paul Shoenberger
Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

DISTRIBUTION OF OCEAN-FRIENDLY DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

SUMMARY:

West Basin Municipal Water District was awarded funding from the Department of Water Resources in 2007 for the Ocean-Friendly Landscape Program (Program). This Program includes the design and construction of native/drought-tolerant demonstration gardens. These gardens will demonstrate what native/drought-tolerant landscaping looks like with the intent of educating the public on the value that it brings in terms of saving water and protecting ocean quality by reducing urban runoff. These gardens will be placed in public areas where there is high exposure. Per the grant application, one garden must be placed in the City of Malibu while the other locations of the demonstration gardens have not been determined.

The budget for the entire design and construction of the demonstration gardens is \$353,000. Staff considered several ways to divide the funding and is recommending it be distributed evenly among the five (5) Divisions giving each Division \$70,600 that each Director can decide how many demonstration gardens to place within their Division. Staff will meet with each Director individually and provide options of different sized gardens and their associated cost in October. For example, a Director may choose to have one demonstration garden that costs \$70,600 within their Division or three (3) that cost \$23,533 each. This provides an equitable distribution of the funds as well as flexibility on the number of locations.

Staff will be recommending a Landscape Designer/Contractor to the Board for consideration in October for a contract starting date in November. Since the contract will include the exact number of demonstration gardens to be implemented, the Directors will need to decide by mid-November the number of gardens they wish to implement within their Division. Due to budgetary constraints, the demonstration gardens will be implemented over a period of 3½ years.

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.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

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

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funding for the demonstration gardens will be provided through a grant from the Department of Water Resources, and West Basin's current and future operating budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed at the Communications Committee on September 3, 2008 and agendaized to the September 22, 2008 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None