



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

AGENDA NO. 18

SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 – Water Resources

Little (Chair), Gray

SEPTEMBER 28, 2009 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Uzi Daniel

Submitted by: Wyatt Won

Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

HARBOR/SOUTH BAY WATER RECYCLING PROJECT CEQA PROCESS

SUMMARY:

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) has teamed up with the Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) on the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project that will help bring much needed recycled water to over a dozen cities in the West Basin service area. In September 2003, the federal environmental document requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were certified by the Army Corps. A Finding of "No Significant Impact" was filed after evaluation. The Army Corps prepared a combined Environmental Statement and Initial Study to fulfill both NEPA as well as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. West Basin's Board circulated and certified a Mitigated Negative Declaration to comply with CEQA in May 2004. Due to the nature of such a large effort, some changes and additions to the project have been made that required updates to the NEPA and CEQA documents. The Army Corps once again prepared a joint document: a Supplemental Environmental Statement as well as a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND). The SMND documents were approved by both the Army Corps and West Basin in August 2007.

Further expansion of this successful capital improvement partnership for recycled water, has required another revision to the environmental documents. Earlier this year, the Army Corps prepared an Environmental Statement and Initial Study to fulfill NEPA as well as CEQA requirements. The document was circulated to the public and was posted with the State Clearinghouse for circulation to state agencies as well as locally affected municipalities. Public review was open from May 28 to June 29, 2009. The Army Corps received a comment letter from Cal Trans that West Basin staff addressed and were incorporated into final document (SMND). The Army Corps signed their Findings of "No Significant Impact" on August 20, 2009.

The Notice of Determination (NOD) must be filed with the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse five days following approval of this document by West Basin (see Exhibit "C"). In addition, to satisfy any concerns related to this project, a Mitigation Monitoring Plan is attached for approval and implementation by the contractors of the project (see Exhibit "B").

The Board considers the following actions:

1. Approve the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration;
2. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan; and
3. Direct the General Manager to file a Notice of Determination for the approved Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 4, Environment – Utilize environmentally sustainable and sound business practices in our projects, policies and actions.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

Environmental Stewardship – West Basin is committed to sustainable and environmentally friendly business practices.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Operations Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

This is to comply with CEQA requirements.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resource Committee on September 18, 2009 and recommended for approval at the September 28, 2009 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board considers the following actions:

1. Approve the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration;
2. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan; and
3. Direct the General Manager to file a Notice of Determination for the approved Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration with the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND) – *(Will be available at the Board Meeting)*

Exhibit "B" – Mitigation Monitoring Plan

Exhibit "C" – Draft Notice of Determination (NOD)