



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

AGENDA NO. _____

JANUARY 7, 2009–Communications
Kwan (Chair), Gray
JANUARY 26, 2009 – Board Meeting
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Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

ZERO RUN-OFF STREET MEDIAN WATER CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM ROUND 1 RESULTS

SUMMARY:

West Basin was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) through their annual Enhanced Conservation Program. This Zero Run-off Street Median Water Conservation Program is a Pilot Program that will specifically target street medians by developing a simple grant program within West Basin's service area to reduce water use and improve irrigation practices on street medians. Interested cities were asked to propose designs to retrofit existing street medians using the "zero run-off" concept. This concept replaces existing median vegetation or irrigation with any of the following components to provide a zero net run-off: artificial turf, porous cover, native and/or drought tolerant plants, drip irrigation, or Smart Irrigation Controllers.

Outreach Conducted

The program was announced at the following venues:

- South Bay Cities Councils of Governments (SBCCOG) Infrastructure Working Group – September 24, 2008.
- West Basin Water Association – October 7, 2008.
- West Basin's Conservation Partners Roundtable – October 23, 2008.
- South Bay Cities Councils of Governments (SBCCOG) Green Cities Task Force – October 30, 2008.
- West Basin Water Association – November 4, 2008.

In mid-September, letters were sent to the Public Works Directors notifying them of this program. At the suggestion of the Board, letters were also sent to the Mayors and City Council members of each city in October.

Results of Round 1

Applicants were given three months to submit an application, from September to December 12. During this period, staff received inquiries from six cities: El Segundo, Inglewood, Lomita, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach and Rolling Hills Estates. Two applications were received from Lomita and Redondo Beach. Details of each are below:

Applicant	Water Savings (AFY)	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested
Lomita	1.01	\$18,000	\$9,000
Redondo Beach	1.8	\$39,612	\$10,000
Total	2.81		\$19,000

Staff will coordinate with the Director of these two (2) cities for a ceremonial opportunity once construction is completed. An acknowledgement sign with West Basin's and MWD's names and logos will appear at both sites.

Round 1 Feedback

Because of the small number of applications received, staff surveyed the cities that did not apply in Round 1 to determine their reasons. The following cities responded:

- City of Carson – Application materials did not get to the right person within the City. The Planning department is responsible for construction or retrofit of street medians and the Public Works department is responsible for the maintenance but often times there is a lack of communication between the two. They are interested in applying in Round 2.
- City of El Segundo – Decided to wait for the second round of funding.
- City of Inglewood – Anticipated to applying but there were communication problems within the City staff.
- City of Malibu – Do not have irrigated medians, most are concrete or weeds or construction of new medians (which would not be considered a retrofit). They currently have no water use on the medians but would be interested in applying if the guidelines are modified to allow these types of median retrofits.
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes – Did not have a small project ready to go for a \$10,000 grant. This grant would make more sense for a city that has its own in-house design and maintenance crew since the funding is for materials only, not for design or labor (matching funds).
- City of Rolling Hills Estates – Did not have a median that \$10,000 would be enough funding to complete and due to budget constraints, they did not have extra funds for a renovation project.

Round 2 Funding

The amount of funding remaining for Round 2 is \$81,000. Since receiving feedback from several cities, staff will review the current guidelines and work with MWD (funding entity) to modify based on the feedback received to ensure more participation in the next round. Only two rounds were anticipated but a third round may be necessary. Staff is looking at revising

the guidelines and reissuing them in January with the applications due in April. Staff will update the Board in February on the revised criteria in the Round 2 guidelines.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 5, Customer/Community Services – Provide for the needs of our customer agencies and the communities we serve in a way that reflects their needs.

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:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on January 7, 2009 and agendaized to the January 26, 2009 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.