



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

AGENDA NO. 25

NOVEMBER 12, 2009 – Water Resources
Little (Chair), Gray
NOVEMBER 23, 2009 – Board Meeting
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Submitted by: Joe Walters
Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

RECYCLED WATER QUALITY ISSUES AT TOYOTA

SUMMARY:

At various times since its connection to recycled water use, Toyota has experienced water quality issues that have become apparent in the toilets and urinals in the five buildings of the South Campus. Usually this takes the form of more pronounced discoloration or moderate sediment and occurs once or twice a year. The sediment or discoloration, while a nuisance for the customer, is usually flushed away in a short period. The most recent incident was substantially more pronounced and merits the attention of the Board.

On the afternoon of October 15, 2009, a call came into staff inquiring if any process upset had occurred to have caused an occurrence of sediment in the toilets. After investigating with staff at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility (ECLWRF), power loss at the Hyperion Treatment Facility may have impacted the water quality for the effluent coming into the ECLWRF. However, this should not have had an impact on the treatment process at the ECLWRF and the quality of water produced. The findings were reported to the customer. Hearing nothing further from Toyota, staff assumed this was another incident that would correct itself within a few hours by flushing the toilets.

On October 19, 2009, staff was notified that the incident had not cleared up and was, in fact, still quite pronounced. Staff took immediate steps to address the problem by enlisting California Water Services Company staff to go on-site to begin flushing out the meter. In addition, staff coordinated with Toyota to flush the system at the cooling towers as well. The water showed marked discoloration during flushing from the hose and heavy sediment in the water, making it entirely opaque in the container. After the better part of an hour, the water returned to a normal condition; clear with no significant sediment.

Since then, two additional customers north of the ECLWRF (The Aerospace Corporation and Playa Vista LA) have reported noticeable changes in the water quality, but not to the severity experienced by Toyota.

As this is a recurring issue with Toyota that staff has investigated previously, with the most recent occurrence appearing to be more pronounced, a more decisive and permanent response is called for. Staff is recommending the following action plan:

- West Basin to pay for cleaning the cooling towers at Toyota South Campus at a cost of \$4,800.
- Construct and implement a disinfection station serving the line to Toyota, sited either at ExxonMobil or Toyota, at an estimated cost of \$100,000.
- Construct and install a filter prior to the Toyota meters at an undetermined cost.

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.

Goal 2, Water Quality – West Basin is committed to providing safe, high quality water by meeting current and anticipated water quality requirements.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

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

Water Quality – West Basin is committed to providing safe, high quality water by meeting current and anticipated water quality requirements.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds for this project are included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Capital Program Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on November 12, 2009 and agendized to the November 23, 2009 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.