



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

**AGENDA NO. 26**

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

## INFORMATION CALENDAR

### WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT'S SALINE PLUME POLICY UPDATE

#### SUMMARY:

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) Board wishes to adopt a policy that will help guide the agency's actions related to long-term cleanup and management of the saline plume that exists within the West Coast Groundwater Basin. Such a "Saline Plume Policy" will be based in part on extensive research and modeling by WRD staff over the past several years, but also incorporating decades of historical plume mapping by a variety of agencies. Although technical work on the plume continues, WRD has made the following findings:

- The volume of groundwater affected by the saline plume is approximately 650,000 acre-feet; and
- The plume is moving inland (eastward) at an average rate of 250 feet per year, or about 1 mile every 20 years.

As noted in a WRD staff report to their Board dated September 24, 2009 (Exhibit "A," also distributed to all West Basin directors under separate cover), several fundamental questions regarding the plume and its implications to groundwater management are associated with the Saline Plume Policy, including:

- Is the plume a threat to existing or planned supply wells?
- Should WRD and/or other agencies expand efforts to remediate the plume?
- If yes, what options are available and how much would each option cost?

Certainly, the remediation of the plume, if deemed necessary and cost-effective, would present an opportunity to further diversify and expand the water reliability within West Basin Municipal Water District's (West Basin) service area, as well as WRD's. The Board's Strategic Business Plan even directs staff to evaluate a partnership approach to desalting the plume.

However, staff believes there is at least one critical question not addressed in WRD's staff report that has significant bearing on the feasibility of increased plume desalting: Is the physical condition of the seawater intrusion barrier adequate to handle the increased injection necessary to offset increased pumping for the desalting?

A next step for the WRD Board in the development of the Saline Plume Policy will be to receive input from Basin stakeholders. West Basin will work constructively with WRD to explore partnership opportunities to evaluate the physical condition of the barrier system so that it can be addressed as part of the Saline Plume Policy discussion and the West Coast Basin Optimization Study.

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:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

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

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – WRD Memorandum to Board of Directors dated September 24, 2009