



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

AGENDA NO. 21

MARCH 12, 2009 – Water Resources

Smith (Chair), Little

MARCH 23, 2009 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Uzi Daniel

Submitted by: Wyatt Won

Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

WEST COAST SEAWATER BARRIER TRACER STUDY CONTRACT

SUMMARY:

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) was required per the precedent setting 2006 Seawater Barrier Permit to reconvene an Expert Panel (Panel) to review the Barrier operations and water quality results following one year of operation at 75%. The Panel was reconvened in accordance with the California Department of Health Services (CDPH) Groundwater Recharge Regulations and was required to determine West Basin's eligibility to move forward to 100% Barrier injection.

As noted at the October 2008 Board Meeting, the Panel determined that it *"unanimously supports the West Basin Municipal Water District's proposal to increase the percentage of recycled water delivered to the Seawater Barrier from 75% to 100% following compliance with a number of recommendations."* Of the ten recommendations that require action on the part of West Basin, only two must occur before West Basin can begin injecting 100% recycled water into the Barrier. One of those is the requirement to complete a Tracer Study by Dr. William Motzer from Todd Engineers. The Panel recommends the following:

Travel Time. *The Panel recommends that the draft technical memorandum by Dr. Motzer on the intrinsic tracer study and travel time determination be finalized and expanded. Specifically, the technical memorandum should address the anticipated directions and travel times of recycled water injected into the Barrier (i.e. from the point of injection to the intake of potable water supply wells). A groundwater monitoring program and ongoing data assessment to track future recycled water should also be included in Dr. Motzer's final report.*

CDPH sent a letter dated December 24, 2008 concurring with the Panel's recommendations (Exhibit "A"). Staff worked with CDPH and Todd Engineers (Dr. Bill Motzer) to develop a scope for the required project. The scope and schedule includes:

- An outline of the project design;
- Geo-chemical and hydrological data collection (existing and any requirements for new data collection); and
- Evaluation of the data and a report utilizing this data to determine both time of travel and recycled water content without having to go to artificially injected tracers.

Todd Engineers is a small highly specialized groundwater resource firm with a staff whose expertise includes hydrology, geo-chemistry, and engineering. Dr. Motzer is a certified professional geologist and environmental assessor with a professional interest in groundwater evaluation and modeling. This project's aim is to give more quantitative data to demonstrate time of travel of recycled water

and percent content of recycled water to satisfy the groundwater recharge regulations as well as data to avoid costly artificial tracer studies.

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

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are included for consulting services in the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Operations and Maintenance Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Required per the 2006 West Coast Barrier Injection Permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the 2008 DPH Letter of Expert Panel Recommendation Approval.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resource Committee on March 12, 2009 and recommended for approval at the March 23, 2009 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manager to enter into a contract with Todd Engineers to complete the West Coast Seawater Barrier Tracer Study in the amount of \$49,079 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$53,986.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – CDPH Letter of Expert Panel Findings