



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

AGENDA NO. _____

APRIL 8, 2009 – Communications

Gray (Chair), Kwan

APRIL 27, 2009 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Darryl Ramos-Young

Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth

Approved by: Rich Nagel

INFORMATION CALENDAR

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMARY:

At the July 2008 Finance Committee, the Committee recommended that West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) establish a college scholarship program for high school graduates interested in pursuing a career in the water industry. Up to two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded within each of the five Divisions for a total of 10 scholarships and a total of \$10,000 in awards for the 2008-09 academic school year.

The scholarship program was promoted in West Basin's January 2009 *WaterWorks Educators Newsletter* that was mailed to teachers, to all public and private schools in West Basin's service area and school district superintendents. In addition, the scholarship guidelines and application form were posted on the West Basin web site, and distributed specifically to local high school college career centers, school district superintendents and college financial aid offices. Staff will provide a report analyzing the quantity and demographics of participating students at the April Communications Committee meeting.

A Scholarship Selection Committee has been formed to review and select the semi-finalists for scholarship consideration. The volunteer committee is composed of West Basin staff: Paul Shoenberger, Margaret Moggia, Charlene Jensen, Ron Wildermuth and Darryl Ramos-Young. Final selection of awardees will be made by the Director of each West Basin Division. The Inglewood Education Foundation, with participation of West Basin's Education Coordinator, will manage the selection process for public school applicants in Division II.

Selection of the scholarship awardees will include the following timeline:

March 31 – Application deadline.

April 3 – Scholarship Selection Committee will receive applications & score sheets for individual evaluations and a one-week review period.

April 16 – Scholarship Selection Committee convenes to discuss and evaluate applications and confirm advancement of semi-finalists for Director review.

April 20 – Directors receive applications and score summaries of semi-finalists for review.

April 27 – Board Meeting, Directors inform West Basin Education Coordinator if applicant interviews are desired.

May 4 through May 8 – Applicant interviews scheduled with Directors, if desired.

May 11 – Awardees notified and invited to May's Board Meeting and Scholarship Recognition.

May 25 – Board Meeting, awardees presented with award letter describing follow-up scholarship award procedures and required school documents.

June – Senior Awards Program at school campuses & Director presentations, dates will vary.

August – Awardees submit college acceptance letters and course schedules in order for scholarship checks to be issued.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 6, Communications - Engage in effective two-way communications of West Basin's programs and policies with the customer agencies and communities we serve.

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:

Funding for the scholarship program is included in the Public and Governmental Affairs Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee meeting on April 8, 2009 and agendized to the April 27, 2009 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Scholarship Guidelines, Application and Draft Application Score Sheet