



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

AGENDA NO. 10

JUNE 1, 2009 – Administration

Kwan (Chair), Smith

JUNE 22, 2009 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Arlene Berman

Submitted by: Arlene Berman

Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEERS

SUMMARY:

By law, workers' compensation benefits for volunteers are not required. Section 3363.5 of the California Labor Code empowers public agencies to designate that persons performing voluntary service without pay for the agency shall be deemed employees for purposes of workers' compensation benefits. A public agency may do so if its Board adopts a resolution to that effect.

Covering volunteers under workers' compensation has significant benefits. Workers' compensation benefits are statutorily defined. The costs of workers' compensation claims are usually significantly lower compared to liability lawsuits filed for the same injuries or illnesses. The workers' compensation claims are also easier to handle since litigation is generally avoided. Providing benefits to volunteer workers under a "no fault" workers' compensation system also provides a positive image of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin).

There are no additional costs to covering volunteers for these benefits. The premiums for workers' compensation benefits are based upon payroll costs and since volunteers are not paid, adding them would not increase current premium costs.

Based upon the above, it is recommended that the Board approve the attached Resolution adding volunteers to West Basin's workers' compensation coverage.

This item has been reviewed by District Counsel for compliance with the State statute. Counsel concurs with staff recommendation and suggests that West Basin specifically designates and authorizes individuals as our volunteers when services are provided.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 8, - Manage finances to optimize the public's investment return and minimize risk.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

Sound Financial and Resource Management – West Basin is committed to efficient business operations, financial planning and asset management.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

No additional costs would be incurred.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Administration Committee on June 1, 2009 and recommended for approval at the June 22, 2009 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board approves the attached Resolution declaring volunteer workers to be deemed employees eligible for workers' compensation benefits.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Resolution No. 6-09-904

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