



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

**AGENDA NO. 12**

**JUNE 12, 2009 – Communications**

Gray (Chair), Kwan

**JUNE 22, 2009 – Board Meeting**

Prepared by: E.J. Caldwell

Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth

Approved by: Rich Nagel

## ACTION CALENDAR

### AB 234: ENERGY, WATER USE AND ENERGY EFFICIENT PROJECTS

#### SUMMARY:

As introduced by Assembly Member Jared Huffman (D-Marin), this bill requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to utilize funds received from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Specifically, for the State Energy Program and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program to identify opportunities to fund energy efficiency activities that also result in reduced water consumption, when possible. This bill requires:

1. The CEC, to achieve both energy and water savings using ARRA funds, to coordinate with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board with respect to sharing information on areas to target, prioritizing actions, and implementation;
2. The CEC's guidelines, to the extent allowable under federal law, to include:
  - a. Water-use efficiency and water recycling projects that also provide energy savings and related job training programs as eligible projects,
  - b. Calculation of specified energy savings and reduced water use,
  - c. Cost sharing opportunities with local water suppliers, and
  - d. Water suppliers as eligible applicants; and
3. That projects are eligible only to the extent they do not impair meeting federal deadlines for spending.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

Over the past several years, the nexus between conserving water and the State's energy demand has been studied and promoted extensively. One excellent example is the South Bay Environmental Services Center, which seeks to promote both water and energy conservation techniques as they provide beneficial results in managing and preserving each respective resource. As drafted, AB 234 would provide additional funding opportunities through the California Energy Commission for West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin), along with additional opportunities to build strong partnerships with the energy producers and utilities. As West Basin has long been a proponent of increasing funding for water conservation and water recycling, and has consistently touted the

ability to conserve energy through water conservation, staff recommends a support position on AB 234.

This bill is currently assigned to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

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 Communications Committee on June 12, 2009 and recommended for approval at the June 22, 2009 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board adopts a Support position on AB 234, as authored by Assembly Member Jared Huffman.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Copy of AB 234