

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, a Negative Declaration has been prepared on the below-referenced program, on the basis that said program will not have a significant effect on the environment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

STANDBY CHARGE PROGRAM RENEWAL

APPLICANT:

West Basin Municipal Water District

LOCATION:

West Basin Municipal Water District

Copies of the Negative Declaration for this program are available for review at the West Basin Municipal Water District offices located at 17140 South Avalon Blvd., Suite 210 in the City of Carson (310)217-2411. Anyone wishing to comment on this program may do so prior to January 25, 2010. All comments should be directed to the District Secretary, at West Basin Municipal Water District's office.

Richard Nagel
General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

Date Published: December 2009

1.0 **TITLE AND PROPONENT**

The title of the project is DISTRICT STANDBY CHARGE PROGRAM RENEWAL. The District Standby Charge Program will continue to levy standby charges against each lot or parcel within the District. The project proponent is the West Basin Municipal Water District.

2.0 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DISTRICT STANDBY CHARGE PROGRAM RENEWAL

Southern California is experiencing an increasing shortage of dependable water supplies. Metropolitan Water District's dependable imported water supplies from the Colorado River and Northern California are inadequate to meet Metropolitan's current and projected demands. Decreasing dependable supplies of imported water, combined with past droughts, have heightened public awareness of the need to conserve existing water supplies and develop new sources.

The District has undertaken projects to ensure an adequate water supply in the area. Two District projects distribute recycled water and desalted water, the West Basin Water Recycling Program and the West Basin Desalter Project. The West Basin Water Recycling Program consists of construction of pipelines and a treatment plant to treat and deliver recycled water throughout portions of the District. The West Basin Desalter Project consists of a reverse osmosis facility to desalinate brackish groundwater. These programs conserve potable water supplies by substituting recycled water to the extent feasible.

The District has also undertaken water conservation programs. Water conservation programs include an ultra low-flush toilet rebate program and public education programs. The public education programs include school children educational services, distribution of water conservation materials and information, and community activities.

The District obtains money to construct water reuse projects by the sale of tax exempt municipal bonds. The bonds will be repaid from the proceeds of the sale of recycled water and imported water. However, during the initial years, proceeds from the sale of recycled water will not be adequate to completely pay the annual interest and redemption requirements. The District must provide added assurances to potential bond buyers that other revenues will be available to pay off the bonds on a timely basis. The District proposes to renew a standby charge to raise revenue to pay off bonds and to provide funds for conservation.

3.0 **IDENTIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (CHECKLIST)**

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

I. Background

1. Name of Proponent: West Basin Municipal Water District
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent: 17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Suite 210, Carson, CA 90746-1296 (310) 217-2411
3. Date of Environmental Assessment: December 1, 2009
4. Agency Requiring Assessment: West Basin Municipal Water District
5. Name of Proposal: District Standby Charge Program Renewal

II. Environmental Impacts

(Explanations of all "yes" and "maybe" answers are provided on attached sheets.)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Earth. Will the proposal result in:			
a. Unstable earth conditional or in changes in geologic substructures?	___	___	<u> X </u>
b. Disruption, displacements, compaction, or overcovering of the soil?	___	___	<u> X </u>
c. Substantial change in topography or ground surface relief features?	___	___	<u> X </u>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
d. The destruction, covering, or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	___	___	<u> X </u>

- | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| e. | Any substantial increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on- or off-site? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| f. | Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| g. | Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. | Air. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| a. | Substantial air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| b. | The creation of objectionable odors? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| c. | Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any change in climate, whether locally or regionally? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. | Water. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| a. | Substantial changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>Maybe</u> | <u>No</u> |
| b. | Substantial changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| c. | Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |

- | | | | | |
|----|--|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| d. | Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| e. | Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| f. | Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| g. | Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| h. | Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| i. | Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. | Plant life. Will the proposal result in: | | | |
| a. | Change in the diversity of species, or number of any native species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| b. | Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare, or endangered species of plants? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>Maybe</u> | <u>No</u> |
| c. | Introduction of new species of plants into an area of native vegetation, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| d. | Substantial reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop? | ___ | ___ | <u>X</u> |

5. Animal Life. Will the proposal result in:
- a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms or insects)? ___ ___ X
 - b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? ___ ___ X
 - c. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat? ___ ___ X
6. Noise. Will the proposal result in:
- a. Increases in existing noise levels? ___ ___ X
 - b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels? ___ ___ X
7. Light and Glare. Will the proposal produce substantial new light or glare? ___ ___ X
8. Land Use. Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area? ___ ___ X
9. Natural Resources. Will the proposal result in:
- a. Substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? ___ ___ X
- Yes Maybe No
- b. Substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource? ___ ___ X
10. Risk of Upset. Will the proposal involve:
- a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions? ___ ___ X

	b.	Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	___	___	<u>X</u>
11.		Population. Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?	___	___	<u>X</u>
12.		Housing. Will the proposal affect existing housing or create a demand for additional housing?	___	___	<u>X</u>
13.		Transportation/Circulation. Will the proposal result in:			
	a.	Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	___	___	<u>X</u>
	b.	Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	___	___	<u>X</u>
	c.	Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	___	___	<u>X</u>
	d.	Alterations to prevent patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	___	___	<u>X</u>
	e.	Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	___	___	<u>X</u>
			<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
	f.	Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	___	___	<u>X</u>
14.		Public Services. Will the proposal have substantial effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas:			
	a.	Fire protection?	___	___	<u>X</u>
	b.	Police protection?	___	___	<u>X</u>

c.	Schools?	___	___	<u> X </u>
d.	Parks or other recreational facilities?	___	___	<u> X </u>
e.	Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	___	___	<u> X </u>
f.	Other governmental services?	___	___	<u> X </u>
15.	Energy. Will the proposal result in:			
a.	Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	___	___	<u> X </u>
b.	Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	___	___	<u> X </u>
16.	Utilities. Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:	___	___	<u> X </u>
17.	Human Health. Will the proposal result in:	___	___	<u> X </u>
a.	Creation of any health hazards or potential health hazards (excluding mental health)?	___	___	<u> X </u>
		<u> Yes </u>	<u> Maybe </u>	<u> No </u>
b.	Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	___	___	<u> X </u>
18.	Aesthetics. Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	___	___	<u> X </u>
19.	Recreation. Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	___	___	<u> X </u>

20. Cultural Resources.

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|--------------|
| a. | Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site? | ___ | ___ | <u> X </u> |
| b. | Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? | ___ | ___ | <u> X </u> |
| c. | Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ___ | ___ | <u> X </u> |
| d. | Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ___ | ___ | <u> X </u> |

21. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

- | | | | | |
|----|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. | Does the Project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife | | | |
| | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>Maybe</u> | <u>No</u> |
| | population to drop below self sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ___ | ___ | <u> X </u> |
| b. | Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of | | | |

time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)

___ ___ **X**

c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project's impact on two or more separate resources may be relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)

___ ___ **X**

d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

___ ___ **X**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. **X**

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on attached sheets have been added to the project. **A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.** _____

I find the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. _____

Dated: December 1, 2009

Richard Nagel
General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District

WILDLIFE CERTIFICATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project DOES NOT have a significant effect on wildlife or plants.

X

I find that the proposed project DOES have a significant effect on wildlife or plants

Dated: December 1, 2009

Richard Nagel
General Manager
West Basin Municipal Water District