



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

AGENDA NO. 34

MARCH 11, 2010 – Water Resources

Little (Chair), Gray

MARCH 22, 2010 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Fernando Paludi

Submitted by: Fernando Paludi

Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

CALDESAL MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

SUMMARY:

CalDesal is a newly formed non-profit organization focused solely on ocean-water and brackish groundwater desalination in California. CalDesal's membership letter (attached as Exhibit "A") states, "CalDesal works to advocate in Sacramento and throughout the state for legislation and regulatory action to streamline and facilitate the use of desalination as a viable water supply."

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) has long recognized the need for an advocacy group similar to WaterReuse for recycled water, but having an exclusive focus on the unique challenges of desalination within California. Specifically, West Basin would benefit from membership to CalDesal primarily through:

- Collective advocacy for regulations that benefit desalination efforts, including an effective and standardized state desalination policy;
- Collective monitoring and advocacy regarding state and federal legislation affecting desalination; and
- Collective education and outreach promoting the benefits of desalination to key stakeholders.

The membership fee for Fiscal Year 2010-11 is \$5,000. Membership is open but not limited to public entities, consultants and other water industry advocates. CalDesal is actively seeking water agency membership in both Southern and Northern California through the efforts of Paul Shoenberger, General Manager of Mesa Consolidated Water District, and Paul Helliker, General Manager of Marin Municipal Water District. The following is a partial list of agencies, in addition to the aforementioned, that has either joined or have committed to join CalDesal:

- San Diego County Water Authority
- Municipal Water District of Orange County
- Orange County Water District
- Marin Municipal Water District
- City of Santa Cruz
- Mesa Consolidated Water District
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

CalDesal will be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of member entities. One of the Board's first actions and use of membership proceeds would be to search for and hire an Executive Director to coordinate activities and help develop and implement a statewide strategy to support desalination.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 1: Water Reliability – West Basin is committed to innovative planning and investments to provide water supply reliability and drought protection.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds for this membership are included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Resource Planning Program Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on March 11, 2010 and recommended for approval at the March 22, 2010 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manager to join CalDesal in the amount of \$5,000.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – CalDesal Membership Request Letter dated February 17, 2010
Exhibit "B" – CalDesal Fact Sheet