



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

**AGENDA NO. 13**

**APRIL 7, 2010 – Communications**

Gray (Chair), Kwan

**APRIL 26, 2010 – Board Meeting**

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Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth

Approved by: Rich Nagel

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### SOLAR CUP UPDATE

#### SUMMARY:

*Solar Cup* is an annual solar-powered boat building and racing competition held for high school students in Southern California. The goal of the seven-month project is to encourage students to learn about science, mathematics, water quality issues, conservation, alternative energy and fuel sources. This year, Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the sponsor of the program, allowed West Basin Municipal (West Basin) to sponsor four teams:

#### **Veteran Teams**

- Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, Rolling Hills Estates
- City Honors High School, Inglewood

#### **Rookie Teams**

- Environmental Charter High School, Lawndale
- West High School, Torrance

MWD notifies its member agencies each September regarding the number of teams each will be allowed to sponsor and the cost of sponsorship fees. Historically, MWD sees an increase in member agency interest each year, and has had to limit agency sponsorship to a four team maximum.

West Basin staff offered to conduct a presentation to introduce the sponsoring agency and Southern California water supply issues to all participating teams, and, as a result, was invited to visit City Honors High School and Environmental Charter High School campuses. All four schools continue to work independently and are meeting required program deadlines.

Environmental Charter High School had a change in their project advisor in February. West Basin and MWD staff assisted the school in mobilizing support for the new project leader.

#### **Program Timeline**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| April 1 – April 30 | MWD technicians visit school sites                        |
| May 1              | Technical boat inspection at Three Valleys MWD, Claremont |
| May 14 - May 16    | Solar Cup 2010 at Lake Skinner, Temecula                  |

### **Solar Cup Team Recruitment for 2011**

West Basin typically issues a program announcement and application form in late April to all high schools. The May application submission deadline is designed to encourage new applicants to demonstrate their program commitment by submitting the form after attending one day of the Solar Cup event.

As a result, West Basin staff will seek school recruitment and selection process recommendations from the Directors for next year. Possible participation options include:

1. No recruitment announcement issued for 2011. West Basin sponsors four veteran Solar Cup teams.
2. Recruitment announcement issued as in past years. Schools are selected by:
  - a. A first-come, first-served sign-up process;
  - b. Random drawing of school applicant names; or
  - c. A rotating selection process...new schools sponsored first, veteran schools sponsored as space allows based on number of previous participation years.

#### STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 3: 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 Solar Cup 2010 is included in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Public & Governmental Affairs Budget.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

#### COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on April 7, 2010 and agendized to the April 26, 2010 Board meeting Consent Calendar.

#### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

#### LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.