



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

AGENDA NO. 12

MAY 19, 2010 – Communications

Gray (Chair), Kwan

JUNE 1, 2010 – Board Meeting

Prepared by: Darryl Ramos-Young

Submitted by: Ron Wildermuth

Approved by: Rich Nagel

CONSENT CALENDAR

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION TEACH & TEST PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education. Their South Bay Chapter – whose boundaries extend from San Pedro in the south to the Ballona Creek in the north – conducts the Teach and Test Program, a volunteer high school water quality monitoring project for Santa Monica Bay. West Basin has been the program sponsor since 2006 providing \$5,000 to supply program equipment, materials, and lab technician services to compile and analyze data.

In 2009, the program recruited five local high schools – Westchester, El Segundo, Mira Costa, Redondo Union, and South Torrance – with volunteer coordinators mobilizing student efforts. Students collect water samples every other Sunday from October through May, and prepare and analyze water samples at the SEA Lab or Loyola Marymount University Lab with the oversight of an experienced lab tech. School teams are also required to conduct a final presentation at the year-end party to connect the project data to other environmentally sustainable efforts around the bay. South High School will highlight West Basin's water recycling efforts. The year-end party and presentation invitation is enclosed as Exhibit "A."

The Surfrider Foundation has also submitted a program and funding proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 (Exhibit "B"). The proposal includes a Teach and Test budget increase to \$7,200 and a new program to characterize storm drain trash and reduce the quantity at its source for \$3,000.

Due to budget restraints and the economy, staff recommends supporting the program at the same level as previous years (\$5,000) and not fund the new program to characterize storm drain trash. Continued funding of the program will maintain relationship with the Surfrider Foundation and keep channels of communication open for desalination. Further, staff recommends future Teach and Test programs visit the West Basin Water Education Center to be located at SEA Lab as a condition of support.

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:

Funds for the water quality program will be included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Public and Governmental Affairs Budget. Funds for the trash characterization study are not included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 Public and Governmental Affairs Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on May 19, 2010 and agendaed to June 1, 2010 Board Consent Calendar.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Teach & Test Year End Party Invitation
Exhibit "B" – 2010-2011 Program Proposal