



Agenda Item # _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Public Works Director

DATE: December 18, 2007

SUBJECT: West Basin Municipal Water District – Water Supply Report and Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council review and approve the attached West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) Resolution “It’s Time to Get Serious” and accept an update from WBMWD staff on current water supply information.

DISCUSSION:

Residing in Southern California, it is important to note that 2/3 of the region’s drinking water supply is imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (“Delta”) and the Colorado River. In the past few years, these sources of water have been compromised due to the shrinking annual snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the eight consecutive years of below average precipitation in the Colorado River basin. These conditions provided a warning to those managing water supplies and brought wanted attention on the need to conserve water.

Recently, the Southern California region has experienced record dry conditions. To compound the drought crisis, a recent federal court ruling intended to protect the endangered Delta Smelt could cause as much as a 30 percent reduction in State Water Project supplies. Collectively, the drought and regulator limits placed on imported water along with the regional drought conditions have been characterized in the news as, “The Perfect Storm” that is now threatening water supply reliability in the Southern California region.

While the region has sustained declining water supplies over the past few years, the conditions have been manageable to date due, in part, to the coordinated efforts between the City of Manhattan Beach and West Basin Municipal Water District (“West Basin”). On the heels of the last major drought (1989-1992), West Basin constructed a world class water recycling facility in the City of El Segundo and launched a progressive conservation program to promote conservation policies. The City has now become an active partner in these programs and now utilizes recycled water whenever possible. These efforts have allowed the South Bay region to responsibly manage its local water supplies, decreasing its use of imported water and per capita consumption despite a steep growth in population over the past fifteen years.

Agenda Item #: _____

Although these past efforts can not be ignored, the recent developments resulting in the further reduced imported water supply require that we take further action. As such, West Basin has adopted the “Its Time To Get Serious” Conservation and Water Use Initiative and have contacted each of the cities within their service area to request that each city adopt a similar resolution to promote water conservation and the further use of recycled water. In support of West Basin’s efforts, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments subsequently adopted this resolution.

Attachment: Resolution No. 6119

RESOLUTION NO. 6119

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, TO ADOPT THE WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT "IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS" CONSERVATION AND WATER USE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, record breaking low precipitation in the County of Los Angeles, a smaller annual snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and eight consecutive years of below average precipitation in the Colorado River Basin have contributed to serious drought conditions that threaten water supply availability in the Southern California region; and

WHEREAS, the region's drought conditions are now further compounded by environmental challenges in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the recent federal court order to reduce water supplies from the State Water Project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manhattan Beach has historically taken a proactive approach to maximize conservation efforts and utilize recycled water resulting in a reduction in the City's use of potable water, and continues to assist residents, businesses, and community organizations by providing conservation education, opportunities and incentives; and

WHEREAS, these recent developments regarding potable water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River to Southern California dictate that new and aggressive measures be taken to further the City of Manhattan Beach's conservation efforts and maximize the use of available recycled water; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Department of Water Resources to use water efficiently and further develop new water supplies, through measures including conservation, water recycling and ocean water desalination, to get maximum utility from existing supplies; and

WHEREAS, West Basin Municipal Water District, along with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, has adopted the "It's Time To Get Serious" initiative, intended to further local conservation efforts, maximize the use of recycled water and continue the development of ocean water desalination; and

WHEREAS, West Basin Municipal Water District, in partnership with the City of Manhattan Beach, has continued to pledge its unwavering support for the City of Manhattan Beach's efforts to identify new conservation programs and potential opportunities to further use recycled water in order to preserve the region's water supply.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Due to the existing drought conditions and the uncertainty as to the region's imported water supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River, the City of Manhattan Beach does hereby declare, "It Is Time To Get Serious."

SECTION 2. The City of Manhattan Beach shall further coordinate and work in concert with the West Basin Municipal Water District to educate the residents and business community about water conservation opportunities, rebates, and products; and

SECTION 3. It is declared to be the policy of the City of Manhattan Beach to extend and enhance local water supplies by using recycled water wherever feasible, appropriate and acceptable to all regulatory agencies in compliance with Section 13550 of the California Water Code; and

SECTION 4. The City of Manhattan Beach, City Council shall instruct staff to review and update the City of Manhattan Beach's adopted policies and the municipal code to identify opportunities to enhance the City's conservation efforts and use of recycled water.

SECTION 5. The City Clerk shall make this Resolution reasonably available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted.

SECTION 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 7. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of December, 2007.

Ayes:
Noes:
Absent:
Abstain:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk