



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works

DATE: April 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Presentation of the West Basin Water Reliability 2020 Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file a report from West Basin and adopt Resolution No. 6248 supporting West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There will be no fiscal impact to the City from this action.

BACKGROUND:

Please see the attached West Basin Municipal Water District Water Reliability 2020 Report (Attachment A) and Resolution No. 6248 (Attachment B).

Attachment A: West Basin Municipal Water District Water Reliability 2020

Attachment B: West Basin Municipal Water District Water Reliability 2020 Resolution

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT WATER RELIABILITY 2020

Overview/Description

West Basin Municipal Water District is implementing a Water Reliability 2020 program (WR 2020) to double its recycling program, double its conservation program and add twenty million gallons-a-day of ocean water desalination in order to create a more reliable and locally controlled supply of future water. These actions will decrease the demand for imported water from 66% to 33% of our total water supply by 2020.

WR 2020 was initiated due to problems with the reliability of imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River. To compound this problem, statewide population growth, environmental concerns, climate change and other factors have made imported water to Southern California less reliable. Water Reliability 2020 will allow us to take control of our water future and prevent water supply problems caused by these factors. West Basin's WR 2020 will use less energy than importing water and it is planned to cost the same as future imported water.

Background

California is currently in a water crisis. Water is being allocated by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California due to a lack of available supplies. The water crisis is caused by many factors, many of which are independent of State rainfall or drought and include the following:

- The California State water system is serving more people than it was designed to serve. It was designed to serve 18 million people and is currently serving 37 million and will soon serve 48 million people by 2020.
- The California Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta (Bay Delta) is broken. There are ecological problems that have limited our ability to move water from Northern California to Southern California to protect endangered species of fish. This has resulted in limited supplies of water available to Southern California.
- Dated and poorly maintained Delta levees also threaten this water supply. In the event of an earthquake water coming to Southern California could be interrupted for up to two years.
- The Sierra Mountains has a continually shrinking snowpack. The Sierra snow melt, which provides us with water during the summer, is gradually shrinking due to climate change.

The Colorado River, our next major source of imported water is also challenged. It is coming out a seven year drought that left its water storage reservoirs down. In addition, the Colorado River must support seven states which include some of the fast growing areas in the United States – Utah, Arizona, Colorado and Nevada. Arizona and Nevada will double in size by 2030. This growth in other states has resulted in California losing approximately half of its past water allotment.

Climate change studies have forecasted that the Colorado River basin could be our next 1930's dust bowl and that Lake Mead may never be full again due a drier climate and increased water demands.

To reduce demand on imported water, Metropolitan Water District and West Basin Municipal Water District have held several workshops on implementing conservation programs at the local level. Through this process, several cities, including the City of Manhattan Beach, have adopted water conservation ordinances to prohibit water waste and raise awareness about the current water crisis. West Basin's WR 2020 program is intended to build upon these success stories and implement diverse new water supply management strategies. West Basin's WR 2020 program will achieve this by doubling its water recycling program, doubling its conservation program and adding 20 million gallons a day of ocean water desalination.

RESOLUTION NO. 6248

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING WEST BASIN'S
WATER RELIABILITY 2020 PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF
MANHATTAN BEACH

WHEREAS, Southern California is facing a challenging water situation due to court-ordered water delivery cutbacks from the San Joaquin Bay Delta to Southern California, long-term drought on the Colorado River, below average rainfall, decreased runoff from the Sierra Nevada Mountain's snowpack, climate change; and

WHEREAS, the two-thirds of coastal Los Angeles County's current water demand is imported from the San Joaquin Bay Delta and the Colorado River, making the region vulnerable to mandatory conservation or water rationing in times of shortages; and

WHEREAS, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide emergency in 2009 and called for immediate action to help preserve the region's water storage reserves; urging cities, counties, local public water agencies to achieve extraordinary conservation by adopting and enforcing drought ordinances, accelerating public outreach and messaging efforts and developing additional local supplies; and

WHEREAS, West Basin Municipal Water District is the wholesale supplier of water to retail customers in coastal Los Angeles County, and is responsible for delivering a reliable, safe, high-quality water supply; and

WHEREAS, in response to the long term challenges we face, West Basin will increase the region's local water supplies through Water Reliability 2020, a program that will double conservation and water recycling efforts, expand youth education programs and introduce additional ocean-water desalination opportunities to decrease dependence on imported water from two-thirds to one-third by 2020.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the City of Manhattan Beach strongly supports West Basin's efforts and the Water Reliability 2020 program.

SECTION 1. 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 6th day of April, 2010.

Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk