

South Bay Cities Council of Government

March 9, 2015

TO: Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director

SUBJECT: West Basin Municipal Water District Recycled Water Projects

BACKGROUND

California is in the midst of a historic drought, which prompted Governor Brown to declare a State of Emergency in 2014, which was the warmest year in recorded history. As the drought persists, and California water agencies prepare for future and prolonged drought periods, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) continues its effort to ensure a safe and reliable supply of high quality water to its communities.

This effort includes West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 program, which would double the use of recycled water in the region and maximize conservation programs to reduce the region's demand on imported water. In order to achieve success, West Basin has identified fifteen potential recycled water projects in the South Bay, which would expand the existing Harbor South Bay Water Recycling Project. These new projects could produce as much 14,000 Acre Feet of recycled water, which would conserve enough water to serve 112,000 residents.

As always, West Basin is working at the local, state and federal levels to leverage project funds and make these projects affordable. West Basin has recently submitted an application to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, seeking an increased funding authorization for \$35 million. Further, West Basin is closely tracking the California state budget, and the release of Proposition 1 bond funds, and is ready to file grant applications once the program rules and regulations are released.

The South Bay Cities Council of Governments has long supported this effort, providing West Basin with letters of support for the Water Reliability 2020 program, and water conservation and recycling grant applications. In November 2014, a letter was sent to our federal legislative representatives supporting the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project. With the new legislative session, that letter can be sent again. In addition, West Basin is requesting that we support their efforts by sending the attached letter to the Governor for more Proposition 1 funding and to our legislative representatives to support a project to bring recycled water to the Palos Verdes Golf Course in Palos Verdes Estates which is a high priority project.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the SBCCOG Board of Directors approve the attached 3 letters of support – 1) re-issuing our November 2014 letter to our federal legislative representatives; 2) to the Governor for additional funding from Proposition 1; and 3) to our state legislative representatives concerning the PV Golf Course project. And, share these letters with our members and encourage them to do their own letters of support.