

South Bay Cities Council of Government

March 26, 2015

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee

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.

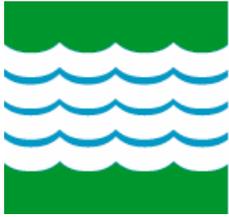
This effort includes West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 program, which would double the use of recycled water in the region and maximize conservation programs to reduce the region's demand on imported water. In order to achieve success, West Basin has identified fifteen potential recycled water projects 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.



SOUTH BAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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March 27, 2015

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Maxine Waters
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Ted Lieu
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Janice Hahn
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Harbor / South Bay Water Recycling Project

Dear Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Janice Hahn, Representative Maxine Waters and Representative Ted Lieu:

In November 2014, we requested your assistance in raising the authorization ceiling for the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project from \$35 million to \$70 million. With the new legislative session, we are sending our request again. On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and leadership on behalf of West Basin Municipal Water District's ("West Basin") efforts to drought-proof Los Angeles County through the development of innovative water recycling and conservation programs. To that end, we are requesting your assistance in raising the authorization ceiling for the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project from \$35 million to \$70 million through Section 7001, *proposed modifications to authorized U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects*, as established in the recently passed Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. This increased authorization would enable West Basin, and the region, to produce, deliver and use an additional 13,974.5 AF of recycled water each year, enough water to serve 111,972 residents each year. To date, with your support, Congress has provided \$35 million for the project.

Your effort on behalf of West Basin has been instrumental in helping to reduce our region's dependence on imported water supplies from the environmentally sensitive Bay/Delta and the federally controlled Colorado River. The water recycling programs you have supported also directly reduce the amount of

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

Carson El Segundo Gardena Hawthorne Hermosa Beach Inglewood Lawndale Lomita
Manhattan Beach Palos Verdes Estates Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills
Rolling Hills Estates Torrance Los Angeles County

effluent discharged into the Santa Monica Bay, a National Marine Estuary, and have enabled the region to withstand the current drought crisis.

West Basin's water recycling programs have proven tremendously successful in delivering recycled water to communities throughout the South Bay region, and the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project is the core of this program. Our partnership with West Basin and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has proved invaluable to this point and we look forward to continuing to work with them to see the project completed to its ultimate capacity.

The Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project will annually develop up to 70 million gallons of recycled water each day and shall be used for municipal, industrial, and environmental purposes in the coastal Los Angeles County area. This alternative source of water shall reduce southern California's dependence on imported water from the San Joaquin Bay Delta and will improve water reliability in the region. Finally, this project is estimated to have created more than 1,500 jobs throughout the construction process, and will yield clear and measurable long-term returns for this limited and finite short-term investment.

For the reasons stated herein, we proudly support West Basin and the Harbor/South Bay Water Recycling Project and ask for your continued support. If you have any questions about this project or its regional and federal benefits, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you, again, for your past support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



James F. Goodhart, SBCCOG Chair
Councilman, City of Palos Verdes Estates

Honorable Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support for Increased Recycled Water Funding

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, I want to thank you for your ongoing support for California's water issues, and your dedication to reducing California's current water demand. As you have identified in your California Water Action Plan, the use of recycled water is vital to this effort. As regions throughout the State prepare to meet your challenge, it is equally important that we expedite the use of Proposition 1 funds, while providing proper oversight to ensure the funds are directed towards quality projects, with maximum benefits. With this in mind, we urge you, and the California State Legislature, to increase funding in the 2015-2016 Budget for recycled water projects.

With overwhelming support of the electorate, Proposition 1 passed and will provide \$7.5 billion to tackle California's current and future water supply and infrastructure needs. Included in the bond, Chapter 9 dedicates \$725 million in competitive grants and loans for recycled water and desalination projects. While we applaud your quick use of these funds, with \$131 million included in your proposed budget, we respectfully request an increase in the funds made available for recycled water in the 2015-2016 Budget.

Currently, California WaterReuse has identified nearly \$3 billion in recycled water projects throughout the state. The South Bay Cities Council of Governments, representing municipalities in the South Bay portion of Los Angeles County, has 15 recycled water projects identified, which will cost approximately \$138 million, and produce almost 14,000 Acre Feet of recycled water. This would conserve enough potable water for 112,000 Californians each year. As California continues to endure dire drought conditions, and as we plan for recurring and prolonged drought periods, there is no better immediate investment than recycled water, as every drop recycled is a drop conserved.

The recycled water programs and projects in the South Bay will be instrumental in reducing our region's dependence on imported water supplies from the environmentally sensitive Bay/Delta and the federally controlled Colorado River. Further, these projects will directly reduce the amount of effluent discharged into the Santa Monica Bay, a National Marine Estuary, and enable the region to withstand the current drought crisis.

For the reasons stated herein, we support increased funding for recycled water projects in the 2015-2016 Budget. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you, again, for your past support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cc (members of the CA State Assembly and Senate)

DRAFT

Honorable _____
(Send to Asm. and Sen.)

RE: Support for PV Golf Course Water Recycling Project

Dear _____:

On behalf of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), I want to thank you for your ongoing support for California's water issues, and your dedication to reducing California's current water demand. As Governor Jerry Brown has identified in the California Water Action Plan, the use of recycled water is vital to this effort. For this reason, we support West Basin's effort to deliver recycled water to the City of Palos Verdes Estates, and eliminate the use of potable water at the Palos Verdes Golf Club.

The Palos Verdes Golf Course Project would extend an existing recycled water pipeline 2.5 miles through the City of Torrance and would connect the City of Palos Verdes Estates, and specifically the Palos Verdes Golf Course to the Harbor / South Bay Water Recycling System. With an estimated cost of \$6 million, the project would deliver 200 Acre Feet of recycled water each year, and would conserve enough water for 1,600 Californians each year.

As with all of the recycled water programs and projects in the South Bay, this project will be instrumental in reducing our region's dependence on imported water supplies from the environmentally sensitive Bay/Delta and the federally controlled Colorado River. Further, this project will directly reduce the amount of effluent discharged into the Santa Monica Bay, a National Marine Estuary, and enable the region to withstand the current drought crisis.

For the reasons stated herein, the South Bay Cities Council of Governments supports the Palos Verdes Golf Course Project. If you have any questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you, again, for your past support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Cc (members of the CA State Assembly and Senate)