



AGENDA

DESALINATION COMMITTEE and SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
December 4, 2018 – 12:00 PM

West Basin Municipal Water District
17140 S. Avalon Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746

Donald Dear, Chair | Gloria Gray, Member | Scott Houston, Alternate

* The Desalination Committee meeting is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board, who are not assigned to the Desalination Committee, may attend and participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the Committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to the Desalination Committee will not vote on matters before the Committee.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **PRESENTATIONS**
5. **ACTION CALENDAR**
6. **INFORMATION CALENDAR**
 - A. Ocean Water Desalination Project Environmental Impact Report Preparation Update
7. **CLOSED SESSION**
8. **DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**
10. **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING** The next Special meeting is scheduled to be held on January 15, 2019.

NOTE: At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed for action, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

Notice of this agenda and materials may be found at the District's Office located at 17140 S Avalon Boulevard, Carson, California and on the District's website at www.westbasin.org. For further information or questions, please contact the Board Secretary at (310) 660-6229. Disability-related aids, language translation or other services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the federal Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990 an can be provided by the Board Secretary upon request. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the Board Secretary at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting at (310) 660-6229.



AGENDA NO. 6.A

DESALINATION COMMITTEE December 4, 2018

INFORMATION

Ocean Water Desalination Project Environmental Impact Report Preparation Update

Summary:

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) has investigated the feasibility of a potential full-scale Ocean Water Desalination Project (Project) since Year 2000 through a step-wise approach. The current step is to complete the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation process and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). West Basin, as the Lead Agency, released the EIR Notice of Preparation (NOP) on August 31, 2015. Staff completed the public scoping meeting on September 30, 2015, in addition to the special briefings for the local impacted community (El Porto-Manhattan Beach), the environmental stakeholders and interested local agencies. The preparation of an Administrative Draft EIR (ADEIR) began at the end of the scoping and comment period on October 15, 2015 using the comments received.

West Basin finalized the ADEIR and released a Draft EIR on March 27, 2018 to provide the responsible and trustee agencies, other public agencies, and interested parties, as well as the public, with information about the potential environmental effects anticipated as a result of the proposed Project. The Draft EIR describes the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the Project. Given the scale and complexity of the project, West Basin Board of Directors (the Board) took two separate actions to extend the public comment period by a total of 46 days to 91 days, beyond the legal obligation of 45 days under the CEQA requirement. The public comment period concluded on June 25, 2018 at 5:00pm. Comments received during the public comment period will be responded and used as a basis for preparation of a Final EIR document for the Board's consideration for certification.

As part of the response-to-comments preparation, staff and the team have been working on four supplemental studies to aid the development of responses to address pertinent technical comments. These studies are:

- Compilation of 316(b) Data;
- Near Field Dispersion Modeling;
- Coastal Hazards Analysis; and
- Subsurface Intake Summary Report.

As a parallel effort, all comments have been categorized based on the environmental resource areas, such as air quality, energy, and marine resources and other topics evaluated in the Draft EIR. To facilitate the response preparation process, a list of master response topic areas has been identified and is being further refined and developed. Master responses are commonly utilized to re-establish context and to provide responses to important common themes identified in individual comments. These master responses will be included as part of the Response-to-Comment document and will be cited in the responses to individual comments as deemed

appropriate. Staff will continue working with the team to complete the studies as well as develop responses to comments for the purpose of finalizing the EIR document.

Benefit to West Basin:

The EIR is a critical component of delivering an engineering project within California, ensuring all facets of environmental impact are considered and characterized, and offering an opportunity for the public to contribute to the process and potentially shape the path forward for the project.

Strategic Business Plan Implementation:

Goal 1: Water Reliability – West Basin is committed to innovative planning and investments to provide water supply reliability and drought protection.

Goal 2: Water Quality – West Basin is committed to providing safe, high quality water by meeting current and anticipated water quality requirements.

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.

Goal 4: Sound Financial & Resources Management – West Basin is committed to efficient business operations, financial planning and asset management.

Goal 5: Environmental Stewardship – West Basin is committed to sustainable and environmentally-friendly business practices.

Fiscal Impact:

Funds for the EIR are included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

Environmental Compliance:

The EIR is being performed in response to the CEQA, a statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

Committee History:

This item will be reviewed by the Desalination Committee on December 4, 2018.

Recommendation:

This item is for information only.

Prepared by: Zita Yu, Technical Planning Supervisor
Submitted by: Zita Yu, Technical Planning Supervisor
Reviewed by: Patrick Sheilds, General Manager