

**MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
4040 PARAMOUNT BLVD., LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
12:00 P.M., MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011**

AGENDA

EACH ITEM ON THE AGENDA, NO MATTER HOW DESCRIBED, SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE ANY APPROPRIATE MOTION, WHETHER TO ADOPT A MINUTE MOTION, RESOLUTION, PAYMENT OF ANY BILL, APPROVAL OF ANY MATTER OR ACTION, OR ANY OTHER ACTION. ITEMS LISTED AS "FOR INFORMATION" MAY ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF AN "ACTION" TAKEN BY THE BOARD OR A COMMITTEE AT THE SAME MEETING.

- 1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011**
Staff Recommendation: Approve as submitted.
- 4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information.
- 5. AB 741 (HUFFMAN) – ONSITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL CONVERSION**
Staff Recommendation: Support AB 741 (Huffman).
- 6. PORTABLE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS OR WELL FOR HAITI RELIEF EFFORT**
Staff Recommendation: For information and discussion.
- 7. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
- 8. DIRECTORS' REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND FOLLOW UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

Posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, March 18, 2011.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if special assistance is needed to participate in the Board meeting, please contact Deputy Secretary Abigail Andom at (562) 921-5521 for assistance to enable the District to make reasonable accommodations.

All public records relating to an agenda item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the time the record is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the Board. Such records shall be available at the District office located at 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712.

Agendas and minutes are available at the District's website, www.wrd.org.

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

UNAPPROVED
MINUTES

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011
MEETING OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

A meeting of the External Affairs Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on February 22, 2011 at 11:38 a.m. at the District Office, 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California. Director Willard H. Murray, Jr. called the meeting to order. Deputy Secretary Abigail C. Andom recorded the minutes.

1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Committee: Willard H. Murray, Jr. and Albert Robles
Staff: Robb Whitaker, Elsa Lopez, Adeline Yoong,
Ron Beilke, Thomas Martin
Guest: Michael Luna, Integrated Campaign Solutions

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2010

The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jacob Johnson of Brownstein Hyatt Farber and Schreck provided an update on federal legislative activities via teleconference. Mr. Johnson stated that President Obama released his budget plan proposal for the fiscal year starting October 1. He noted that within the budget request are a number of spending cuts including the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Water Reuse Projects.

Bob Reeb of Millennium Advocates provided an update on state legislative activities. Mr. Reeb stated that Governor Brown's budget was unveiled in January and the Legislature is busy with budget discussions.

Government Affairs Manager Adeline Yoong provided an update on AB 954 (Calderon) and SB 701 (Calderon). Discussion followed.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Manager of External Affairs Elsa Lopez provided an update on the External Affairs Department's activities. Ms. Lopez stated that staff has been busy with preparations for the District's 4th Annual Groundwater Festival.

Discussion followed on the District's newsletter. The Committee reconfirmed its desire to keep the distribution to two physical mailings and two email versions.

6. DIRECTORS REPORTS, INQUIRIES, AND FOLLOW UP OF DIRECTIONS TO STAFF

The next Committee meeting is scheduled Monday, March 21, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Chair

ATTEST:

Director



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 4

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: MARCH 21, 2011
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUMMARY

Legislative Calendar

State Legislature

April 14 Spring Recess begins at end of this day's session
April 25 Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess

Congress

March 21-25 House and Senate district work period
April 18-29 Spring Recess

Legislative Report

Verbal updates will be provided on state and federal matters.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information.



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 5

Prepared by: Adeline Yoong

Reviewed by: Elsa Lopez

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: MARCH 21, 2011
TO: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: AB 741 (HUFFMAN) – ONSITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL CONVERSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL ANALYSIS

- Bill Summary and Status
AB 741 (Huffman), Onsite wastewater disposal conversion, is similar to AB 2182 (Huffman) introduced last session which would have established a financing method for private homeowners to replace leaking sewer laterals and upgrade septic systems to sewer systems. WRD had voted to support the measure; however, AB 2182 was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 741 has been referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee.

- Impact to WRD
This bill could allow WRD residents the ability to finance onsite sewer improvements on their property thereby protecting water quality from potential sewage spills and backup.
- Support
The conversion of septic systems to community sewer systems and the replacement of damaged sewer laterals are needed to protect water quality, the environment, and public health and safety. However, the costs of sewer lateral replacements for private property owners are high. Providing financing options to encourage private property owners to replace their damaged sewer laterals is essential to ensuring that public infrastructure, public health and the environment are protected.
 - Irvine Ranch Water District (sponsor)
 - ACWA
 - Southern California Water Committee
- Opposition
Unknown.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Support AB 741 (Huffman).

ATTACHMENTS

- Bill Text
- AB 741 Fact Sheet

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 741

Introduced by Assembly Member Huffman

February 17, 2011

An act to add Section 5465 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to wastewater.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 741, as introduced, Huffman. Onsite wastewater disposal conversion.

Existing law prohibits the discharge of sewage or other waste, or the effluent of treated sewage or other waste, in any manner which will result in contamination, pollution, or a nuisance. Under existing law, when the State Department of Public Health or any local health officer finds that a contamination exists, the department or the officer is required to order the contamination abated, as provided.

Under existing law, an owner or reputed owner of property included within an assessment district for construction of a main trunkline or collector sewer lines may request the governing board to construct all necessary plumbing to connect his or her property to the adjoining public sewer system, the cost of the which constitutes a lien on the property.

This bill would authorize specified entities, as defined, to use this provision for the purpose of converting properties from onsite septic systems and connecting them to the sewer system.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 5465 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 5465. (a) The procedures specified in this section may be used
- 4 by a public agency that is an entity, as defined in Section 5470.
- 5 (b) An entity may use the procedures specified in Section 5464
- 6 for the purpose of converting properties from onsite septic systems
- 7 and connecting them to a sewer system, whether or not an order
- 8 or other action shall have been issued or taken for an abatement
- 9 of contamination created by sewage disposal. The conversion
- 10 improvements and costs may include, but are not limited to, pipes,
- 11 pumps and other equipment, septic system abandonment, and
- 12 associated sewage treatment capacity.
- 13 (c) For purposes of this section, and in addition to any other
- 14 power, an entity may exercise the powers specified in Article 4
- 15 (commencing with Section 5470).
- 16 (d) The authority granted by this section shall be in addition to,
- 17 shall not be in derogation of, and shall not affect, any authority
- 18 granted by other law relating to recovering the cost incurred by an
- 19 entity for connecting properties to the public sewer system, or the
- 20 entity's exercise of powers pursuant to any other law. This section
- 21 shall be deemed to provide a complete and supplemental method
- 22 for exercising the powers authorized by this section, and shall be
- 23 deemed supplemental to the powers conferred by other applicable
- 24 laws.
- 25 (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall
- 26 apply:
- 27 (1) "Assessment district" as used in statutes referenced in this
- 28 section also means an improvement district or any other area served
- 29 by the entity's sewer collection system.
- 30 (2) "Governing board" and "governing body" mean the
- 31 governing body of the entity.
- 32 (3) "Ordinance" as used in statutes referenced in this section
- 33 also means a resolution.

AB 741 – SEPTIC & SEWER IMPROVEMENT FINANCING

Assemblymember Jared Huffman

IN BRIEF

AB 741 would expand existing law to allow property owners to voluntarily enter into agreements with local wastewater agencies to finance needed sewer improvements. This bill would:

- Help private property owners finance the cost of converting from a septic system to a community sewer system and the replacement of damaged sewer laterals.
- Protect water quality, the environment and public health from contamination caused by leaking septic tanks, eroding pipes and other aging sewer infrastructure.

Many communities in California face threats from aging infrastructure. The conversion of septic systems to community sewer systems and the replacement of damaged sewer laterals are needed to protect water quality, the environment, and public health and safety. AB 741 (Huffman) would provide additional flexibility to wastewater agencies and voluntary options for willing property owners for financing of sewer improvements.

Sewer Lateral Improvements

A sewer lateral is the pipe that transports wastewater from a building to the public sewer main in the street. Over time, laterals can become cracked, disjointed, or damaged by tree roots, earth settlement, and blockages caused by fats, oil, and grease, allowing wastewater to leak into the ground. Damaged laterals can also contribute to sewage blockages and backups and storm water overflows into the public system, as well as create harm to the environment and threaten public health.

The California State Water Resources Control Board requires wastewater agencies to maintain the public sewer systems, and agencies invest hundreds of millions of dollars in repair and improvements to publicly owned sewer mains and treatment facilities. However, the problem cannot be resolved

solely by upgrading the community sewer system. Repair or replacement of sewer laterals is typically the responsibility of the homeowner, but there is no mandate requiring this maintenance. Private property owners must be given the tools to maintain private sewer laterals.

The costs of sewer lateral replacements for private property owners are high. A typical sewer lateral replacement can range from \$1,500 to \$4,000. Costs can increase significantly if there are obstructions such as landscaping, driveways, or structures built above the lateral.

Providing financing options to encourage private property owners to replace their damaged sewer laterals is essential to ensuring that public infrastructure, public health and the environment are protected.

Septic Conversions

Currently, there are a number of California communities that operate on septic systems. Septic systems can be operated safely, but when they age or exceed the treatment capacity of regional soils, they can leak and contaminate surface waters, groundwater and sensitive coastal waters with disease-causing pathogens and nitrates.

Converting from a septic to sewer system protects water quality, the environment and public health by ensuring that wastewater is collected and conveyed to treatment and disposal facilities with minimal risk and increases water quality benefits.

The cost to convert a septic system to a sewer system can be expensive, including the clean up and removal or abandonment of the septic system as well as the costs of building the facilities needed to connect to the community sewer system. According to the Irvine Ranch Water District, the costs of conversion can range from \$2,000 to \$14,000 and if new or replacement pumps are needed, this can add an additional \$10,000.

EXISTING LAW

Health & Safety Code sections 5460-5464 authorize a property owner included within an assessment district to enter into an agreement with the local wastewater agency for the financing of sewer improvements needed to connect to a community sewer system when a Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued an abatement order.

THIS BILL

AB 741 would authorize public wastewater agencies to offer voluntary liens to private property owners to finance lateral replacements and conversions from septic to sewer systems to prevent groundwater contamination and protect water quality, the environment, public health and safety.

SUPPORT

Irvine Ranch Water District – Sponsor

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Paige Brokaw, (916) 319-2715

Paige.Brokaw@asm.ca.gov

Maureen O'Haren, (916) 498-1900

maureen@oharen.com



MEMORANDUM

ITEM NO. 6

Prepared by: Thomas Martin

Reviewed by: Robb Whitaker

Approved by: Robb Whitaker

DATE: MARCH 21, 2011

TO: EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEETING

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: PORTABLE WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS OR WELL FOR HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

SUMMARY

After the devastating earthquake that left Haiti in deplorable conditions with limited water resources. Director Katherman was approached by a group called Bridges to Haiti, which is providing relief efforts to Haiti in the wake of the earthquake. They are part of the Bridges Community Economic Development Corporation (a 501 c3 non-profit), whose mission is to build partnerships among business and community leaders for the betterment of communities throughout Los Angeles County. Bridges to Haiti's mission is to "Bridge the Gap" between available resources and the means to get them to the people of Haiti. A component of their relief effort to Haiti is the development of safe drinking water by providing funds for construction of wells or for portable treatment systems. The cost of the construction of a new well is \$10,000. The Bridges to Haiti group also sent a letter of request for assistance addressed to our Board President. In the letter, the group asks for funding assistance for either a new well or for water filtration systems. The group recommends a particular treatment system called the Aqua Sun Responder. Director Katherman requested that staff research the cost and functionality of the recommended system as well as other available water filtration systems that could be cost effective and easily transportable. Staff researched several systems and found the Aqua Sun Responder to be the most favorable of the systems in terms of water produced, portability and cost of system. The Aqua Sun Responder system purifies and filters water from streams, rivers, and lakes. It filters and disinfects 1 gallon of water per hour and is powered by solar panels. The cost of one treatment unit is \$2,500.

A summary of the features of this water treatment system are below:

Product	Description	Notes
Aqua Sun Responder	Portable Filtration and UV Light Solar Powered Disinfection Unit. 22x18x10 inches Weight: 60 pounds Electronic and solar paneled. Box shaped. It has the ability to be powered by a 12-Volt Battery.	Purifies and filters water like stream, lake, pond, wells Cleans 1 gallon per hour Carrying Case with Wheels. UV-Light and Filter Disinfects and kills: chemicals, Bacteria, Viruses, Typhoid Fever, Coliform, Dysentery, Cholera, Infectious Jaundice, Hepatitis and Influenza Virus, E-coli, Enteric Fever, VOCs, and Chemicals

Director Katherman suggests that WRD provide \$10,000 for this relief effort. This could be in the following forms of assistance:

1. Purchase 4 (four) Aqua Sun Responder S Water Purification systems for a total of \$10,000.
2. Provide funding for the drilling and construction of a new well, which is \$10,000.
3. Provide a combination of treatment systems and partial funding for a new well

If WRD provides treatment equipment, the District will transfer it to the Bridges of Haiti LLC who will then, at no additional cost to WRD, transport it to Haiti at the end of April. (See attachment). This delegation will deliver the equipment to town leaders of Carries, which is located in the Cote de Arcadins Region and provide training on the use of the equipment. Town leaders will use the equipment to treat contaminated wells or water from a nearby stream for drinking water purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost is \$10,000. This is not a budgeted item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information and discussion.



225 W. Torrance Blvd., Suite D PH: (310) 538-9185 • www.BridgestoHaiti.org

March 13, 2011

Mr. Sergio Calderon, President
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
4040 Paramount Boulevard
Lakewood, CA 90712

Dear Mr. Calderon,

On behalf of the Executive Committee for Bridges to Haiti, I would like to thank you and the Board for your consideration in donating resources to our relief effort.

Bridges To Haiti, is a 501(C)3 non-profit corporation formed under the auspices of Bridges Community and Economic Development Corporation. Our goals are simple yet lofty—to address the needs of the people in Haiti in the areas of healthcare, water sources, housing, education, and self-sustaining food supplies. However, unlike most NGOs and missionary groups that focus on relief and aid, Bridges To Haiti teams work side-by-side with Haitian community leaders and empower them to develop their own solutions to the problems they face.

Since its inception in June 2010, several medical teams have deployed to the Cote de Arcadins Region of Haiti treating over a thousand patients. Hand-delivered medications to treat cholera have saved hundreds more lives. Dozens of children who have never seen a doctor and orphaned by the earthquake were also provided medical and dental care. A prototype home designed to withstand the weather extremes of Haiti was also built and will serve as the pattern for future housing projects. School supplies were brought to hundreds of children who have never owned a notebook or pencil.

More recently, the first of several water wells was built to provide potable water in the town of Carries for hundreds of people. We consider this well as a major accomplishment as this region has no reliable source of safe drinking water. Most residents walk down from their shanties in the hills to collect water from streams that form after a rain, from puddles or from an old well over 5 miles away.

Funding for these projects was raised by Bridges To Haiti solely through private efforts and donations. Hence, we are writing to request your assistance in two areas regarding water:

- 1) To subsidize the construction of additional water wells in other areas of the region. Site locations have been determined on previous survey missions and are based on water table depth estimations and population density. Each well will cost approximately \$10,000 and takes 7-10 days to construct. Every well

built in the area will provide water for hundreds of residents within a two-mile radius for years to come.

- 2) To provide water filtration systems to assure that the water acquired is safe for consumption; particularly from cholera. One such system is the Responder S by Aqua Sun International. Each system can be solar-powered and will provide up to 100 gallons of filtered water per day. The system is suitable for transport by the mission team as it is compact, rugged and weighs only 50 lbs. Ideally, at least one system per well should be in place. The cost for one system is approximately \$2,500.

Relief efforts to Haiti since the earthquake of January 12, 2010 have been frustrated by the lack of infrastructure and entanglements at customs. Bridges to Haiti stands apart in that all donations go directly to their intended recipients. We are a grassroots, boots-on-the-ground organization accountable both to our donors and those we serve.

If you have any further questions or inquiries regarding any aspect of our activity, please contact us at (310) 538-5577 or visit us at www.BridgestoHaiti.org.

Yours Truly,



ARNEL EUGENIO
Team Leader, Mission Coordinator
Bridges to Haiti
aeugenio@bridgescommunity.org

cc: Director Robert Katherman
Director Albert Robles