

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
12621 E. 166th Street (Corner, Bloomfield & 166th), Cerritos, California
10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003**

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.

I. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 10, 2003 AND REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 24, 2003

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee approve the minutes.

IV. AWARD CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR WRD PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommend that the Board enter into an agreement for public outreach and public relations services with Strategy Workshop, Inc.

V. WRD BOTTLED GROUNDWATER DISTRIBUTION POLICY – LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

VI. LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommend that the Board approve membership to the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the \$1,500 level.

VII. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

VIII. ETHICS TRAINING

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

IX. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

X. DEPARTMENT REPORT

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Anticipated litigation per Government Code §54956.9 (c): One Case

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Posted by Marcia A. Forkos, Deputy Secretary, August 25, 2003.

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2003
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A special meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on July 10, 2003, at 9:30 a. m. at the District Office, 12621 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California. Chairperson Pat Acosta called the meeting to order and presided thereover. Deputy Secretary Marcia A. Forkos recorded the minutes.

I. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Attendees included:

Committee: Directors Pat Acosta and Willard Murray, Jr.
Staff: Bruce Mowry, Adeline Yoong, and Albert Frias
District Counsel: J. Arnaldo Beltran
Guest: Suja Lowenthal of Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

II.A. SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEM – Closed session

Director Murray requested that an additional item be added to the Committee agenda, that there was a need to take immediate action on this item, and that this need arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda for this meeting.

Based on the available information and upon advise of District Counsel Beltrán concerning subsequent need items under the Brown Act, a motion was duly made by Director Murray, seconded by Director Acosta to add one closed session item regarding anticipated litigation. Item II.A was added to the agenda.

III. STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Director Murray explained that the District's Sacramento lobbyist, Curtis Earnest, had taken a position with Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas.

As a result of this change, Mr. Earnest will not be able to act as WRD's lobbyist. Director Murray stated that replacement services are necessary.

Director Acosta stated the Mr. Reggie Fair and Associates has worked with Mr. Earnest and knows the District's concerns. Assistant to the General Manager (Government Affairs) Adeline Yoong stated that it is late in the legislative calendar, but that it is

important to remain vigilant and continue to monitor events in Sacramento. Further discussion was held regarding other options.

Director Acosta recommended retaining Mr. Fair at \$5,000 per month with the understanding that additional fees would be paid for services as needed, not to exceed a maximum of \$10,000 per month for Sacramento lobbyist services.

The Committee requested that this item go to the Board for approval of the Committee's recommendation.

II.A. CLOSED SESSION

Anticipated litigation per Government Code §54956.9(b)
One Case

The Committee went into closed session to review one item of anticipated litigation. The Committee reconvened in open session and District Counsel stated that a status report was given. No action was taken by the Committee on this item.

IV. LEGISLATIVE REPORT – SB 906 (ESCUTIA)

Assistant to the General Manager (Government Affairs) Adeline Yoong gave an overview of SB 906 (Escutia). She noted that after various amendments, only one provision remains. The latest version would allow the General Manager to sign contracts up to \$25,000 rather than the Board President and Secretary.

Suja Lowenthal of Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts stated that their Boards had removed their opposition to SB 906. Ms. Yoong stated that the Association of California Water Agencies and Metropolitan Water District both now support the Bill.

Director Acosta requested staff to continue monitoring AB 536 (Calderon).

General Manager Bruce Mowry stated that AB 986 deals with PERS for Directors and asked that staff monitor the bill as it could affect at least two of the Directors.

District Counsel Beltrán asked the Committee if the General Manager could have the authority to pay and agree to compensation for Mr. Reggie Fair from July 1st since Mr. Fair had stepped in as of that date to assist the District, and the Board would not act on the matter until the July 16th Board meeting. He was concerned about Mr. Fair registering in a timely manner. Directors Acosta and Murray agreed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

Director

MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2003
A REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A regular meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on July 24, 2003, at 10:00 a. m. at the District Office, 12621 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California. Chairperson Pat Acosta called the meeting to order and presided thereover. Acting Deputy Secretary Abigail C. Andom recorded the minutes.

I. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Attendees included:

Committee: Directors Pat Acosta and Willard Murray, Jr.

Staff: Bruce Mowry, Adeline Yoong, and Albert Frias

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2003

The minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. POWER CONFERENCE

Assistant to the General Manager Adeline Yoong stated that the Public Officials for Water and Environment Reform (POWER) has organized a water conference for the past 12 years. WRD has been a sponsor of the conference these past three years. The conference serves as a valuable opportunity to interact with those involved in the development and implementation of water policy throughout the state of California.

The District has contributed \$2500 each year and was provided five conference registrations. Staff recommended a participation level of \$1500 this year. Three registrations will be provided at this level.

The Committee concurred with staff's recommendation and requested that this item be included in the Board agenda for approval.

V. LOS ANGELES AND SAN GABRIEL RIVERS WATERSHED COUNCIL REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION

Ms. Yoong stated that the District has a seat on the Executive Board of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and contributes \$5,000 annually. The Council is a coalition of government agencies, businesses, academia, and the community. Due to increased responsibilities, the Council's operating budget more than doubled and they have requested that WRD consider contributing additional funding towards its FY02-03 budget.

General Manager Bruce Mowry noted that the District also provides \$75,000, payable in three increments of \$25,000 per year, to a water augmentation study undertaken by the Council.

Discussion followed and the Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to continue the \$5,000 annual contribution.

VI. SALINITY MANAGEMENT COALITION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dr. Mowry stated that the District was invited as a founding member of the Salinity Management Coalition last year. The other four founding members are the Association of Groundwater Agencies, Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Plants, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Water Reuse Association. The purpose of the Coalition is to coordinate salinity management strategies among water and wastewater agencies. Founding sponsorship involves an annual contribution of \$10,000.

Dr. Mowry stated that it has been staff's observation that the Coalition has not been focused in order to be effective and has not differentiated itself from other agencies. A majority of its efforts are a duplication of what other agencies have been doing. Staff recommended not renewing the District's membership for FY03-04. The Committee concurred. Additionally, the Committee recommended enhanced involvement and active participation in salinity management issues with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other related water associations.

VII. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Discussion followed on proposed candidates to provide federal legislative advocacy support to represent the District's interests in Washington DC. Director Acosta stated that she would like the candidates to go through a formal interview process.

The Committee recommended looking at other candidates and requested that an update be provided at the next Committee meeting.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Yoong referred to a matrix of legislative bills the District is following. She specifically referred to SB 906 (Escutia) that will be heard by the Appropriations Committee on August 20, 2003.

On the federal side, Ms. Yoong also stated that the House Energy & Water Appropriations subcommittee has included \$1.8 million for the Long Beach Area Water Reclamation Program which includes the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility. The

WRD and Long Beach Water Department will share the funds which will finance 25% of the cost of the project.

Lastly, Ms. Yoong stated that Senator Calvert has introduced his CALFED bill with references to groundwater storage and clean-up.

IX. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. Yoong informed everyone that a briefing tour for LA City Councilmember Jan Parry has been scheduled on July 28th.

Public Affairs Representative Albert Frias provided an update on the District's educational partnership program groundwater tour program and the water bottle slogan contest. Mr. Frias also gave an update on the preparations for the Leo J. Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility dedication ceremony.

IX.A. SUBSEQUENT NEED ITEM

Dr. Mowry requested that two additional items be added to the Committee agenda as there was a need to take immediate action on these items. He also indicated that this need arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda for this meeting.

Having met the Brown Act requirements, the following two items were added to the agenda: Watereuse Conference, September 7-10, 2003, San Antonio, Texas and discussion of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce membership.

An invitation was received from the Watereuse Association for its 2003 Annual Symposium. The deadline for registration and hotel reservations is August 15, 2003. After that date, it will be on a space availability basis only, and may be subject to a rate increase. Staff recommended attendance of Directors and staff members, as determined by the General Manager, to this conference. The Committee concurred and requested that this item be included in the August 6, 2003 Board agenda for approval.

Dr. Mowry also stated that an invoice for \$10,000 was received from the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce for membership, gala event, and sponsorship to conferences. The Board only approved membership to the Chamber and staff is seeking guidance on this matter.

Director Murray stated that this item should be referred to the Finance Committee for review. Director Acosta concurred.

X. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

Director

AGENDA ITEM NO. IV

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
**SUBJECT: AWARD CONTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR WRD
PROGRAMS**

The WRD requested bids from qualified vendors to enter into a service agreement to provide public outreach and public relations services for the Dominguez Gap Spreading Grounds, Leo J. Vander Lans Water Treatment Facility and the Montebello Forebay project. Proposals were submitted by five vendors and they were all interviewed by an Ad Hoc Outreach Committee consisting of Directors Albert Robles and Pat Acosta and a panel consisting of General Manager Bruce Mowry, Assistant General Manager Kavous Emami and Public Affairs Representative Albert Frias.

The Ad Hoc Outreach Committee recommended to the Board of Directors at its August 20, 2003 meeting that the contract be awarded to a team led by Strategy Workshop, Inc. of Los Angeles because of its overall strategic plan and presentation. The President requested that this item be deferred to the Inter-Agency Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: The General Manager will negotiate the contract not to exceed \$219,235 and outline the scope of work under the guidelines set by the panel. Originally, \$120,000 was allocated for this project so this item will require a budget adjustment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommend that the Board enter into an agreement for public outreach and public relations services with Strategy Workshop, Inc.

AGENDA ITEM NO. V

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: WRD BOTTLED GROUNDWATER DISTRIBUTION POLICY – LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Staff is in the process of distributing a case of WRD bottled groundwater to each of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' office. There is interest in the possibility of supplying the County Board of Supervisors' with WRD bottled groundwater for use at the Supervisor's weekly board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. VI

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since its founding in 1888, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has served the needs of the Los Angeles business community through its public policy and advocacy initiatives and its business development programs and services. The Chamber has spoken on issues that directly impact its members and the quality of life in the region. Its advocacy efforts included direct lobbying by staff and members and presenting events on issues. Just this past year, the Chamber served a catalyst for business for the passage of Proposition 50, the statewide water bond.

Staff had initially recommended membership to the LA Area Chamber at the standard membership level. Staff has since re-evaluated its recommendation after attending several events opened only to Circle level members. (The past 2 breakfast forums featured Senate Agriculture & Water Committee Chair Mike Machado and Senate Natural Resources & Wildlife Chair Sheila Kuehl.) Staff now recommends that the WRD join the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the Bronze Level, the lowest Circle of Support level, of \$1,500.00, plus a \$50.00 processing fee for initial enrollment. Benefits at this level will allow an unlimited number of WRD representatives attendance at the Chamber's breakfast forums held twice a month, as well as all VIP receptions.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$1500.00 membership dues, plus \$50.00 processing fee for initial enrollment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee recommend that the Board approve membership to the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce at the \$1,500.00 level.

AGENDA ITEM NO. VII

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SUPPORT

On June 24, 2003 the Inter-Agency Committee directed staff to explore various firms that provide lobbyist services in Washington D.C. Staff provided an update on its findings at the July 24th Inter-Agency Committee and was directed to seek more information. Updates of these findings will be provided.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown.
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. VIII

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: ETHICS TRAINING

Director Pat Acosta is suggesting that the WRD conduct a workshop for its directors and appropriate staff modeled after a workshop she attended at a Special Districts Conference. The workshop, "On the Right Side of Board & District Law" presented by Mr. Jeff Ferre of Best, Best & Krieger at the February 27-28, 2003 Special Districts Conference provides information on board governance, organizational structures, as well as a discussion on ethics and conflict of interest.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:** For discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. IX

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Staff will provide a verbal update on federal and state issues.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION:** For discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. X

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2003
TO: INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE
FROM: BRUCE A. MOWRY, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT

Staff will provide an update on department activities and programs.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

RECOMMENDATION: For discussion.