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 REGULAR GROUNDWATER CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2004
   Staff Recommendation: That the Committee approve the minutes as submitted.

IV. GROUNDWATER QUALITY – PERCHLORATE UPDATE
   Staff Recommendation: For information.

V. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE
   Staff Recommendation: For information.

VI. SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM UPDATE
   Staff Recommendation: For information.

VII. REVIEW OF SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM POLICY
   Staff Recommendation: That the Committee recommend to the Board that the structure of the Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) be revised. This revision would be to prioritize acceptance of projects involving VOC contamination and only finance those non-VOC treatment projects with SDWP budgeted funds not encumbered by a VOC project in the first six months of the fiscal year.

VIII. ROBERT W. GOLDSWORTHY DESALTER UPDATE
   Staff Recommendation: For information.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda posted by Abigail C. Andom, Deputy Secretary, March 17, 2004.
A regular meeting of the Groundwater Clean-up Committee of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California was held on February 17, 2004, at 8:24 a.m., at the District Office, 12621 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California. Chairperson Robert W. Goldsworthy called the meeting to order and presided thereover. Acting Deputy Secretary Abigail C. Andom recorded the minutes.

I. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM
Committee: Directors Robert Goldsworthy and Albert Robles
Staff: Mario Garcia, Jason Weeks, Ted Johnson, Hoover Ng, Paul Fu, Nancy Matsumoto, and Charlene King

II. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

III. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR GROUNDWATER CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 16, 2003 AND JANUARY 6, 2004
The minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2003 were approved as submitted and the minutes of January 6, 2004 were approved as amended.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 04-693 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2000 (WATER CODE SECTION 10795 et seq.)
Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer Mario Garcia stated that District staff submitted an application for AB303 funding for the Central Basin Groundwater Contamination Study. Resolution No. 04-693 is a provision in the application process designating an authorized representative to file the application and enter into an agreement for a grant.

Senior Engineer Jason Weeks added that, if successful, the grant funds will allow WRD, in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB), to continue the investigation into the threat to deeper drinking water aquifers from shallow groundwater contamination in the area of Santa Fe Springs.

Chief Hydrogeologist Ted Johnson also noted that the total project cost for the scope of work described in the application was $364,000 and the
District requested the AB303 maximum of $250,000 of funding assistance. Upon the application’s success, the remaining balance of $114,000 will be provided by the District and other participating agencies.

The Committee recommended that the Board adopt Resolution No. 04-693 and requested that this item be included in the agenda for the next Board meeting.

V. AB303 LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Assistant General Manager Garcia stated that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) submitted an application to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), under AB303, for a project entitled Alamitos Seawater Barrier Telemetry System Construction. If approved, the grant will provide funding for the County for local and remote monitoring capabilities of conditions at the barrier project, which would optimize the operation of the barrier and allow for rapid prevention of leakage than is currently possible. LACDPW has requested that the District send a letter of support to the DWR for its AB303 application.

The Committee recommended that the Board support a letter from the District’s General Manager to the DWR in support of LACDPW’s Alamitos Seawater Barrier Telemetry System Construction AB303 grant application and requested that this item be included in the agenda for the next Board meeting.

VI. SPINNER LOGGING AND ZONE SAMPLING – REQUEST FOR BIDS

Mr. Johnson stated that for the current fiscal year, WRD budgeted money to perform certain testing of water wells to identify hydrogeologic properties of the aquifers and find possible zones of contamination which could contribute pollutants to the well water. The testing was intended to increase the understanding of the Central and West Coast basin groundwater system; and at the same time, provide a benefit to pumpers who have contamination in their wells and are considering well head treatment or abandonment of the well.

The type of testing that would be performed is known as “spinner logging” and “zone sampling”. It is commonly used in the industry to provide well specific data on aquifer flow contribution and contaminant distribution. WRD staff implemented this technology at the Goldsworthy Desalter to successfully increase the chloride content coming out of the well.

Staff seeks Committee and Board approval to issue a Request for Bids to qualified contractors to perform this work for a well in the Central Basin. The amount of $50,000 has been budgeted for this work in the current FY 2003/04 budget. Actual costs will be determined by the bids received.
Once the bids are received, Staff will return to the Committee and Board for approval of the contract.

The Committee agreed with the staff recommendation but requested that it go to the Board as a general services contract to test more than one well should funds remain available.

VII. GROUNDWATER QUALITY – PERCHLORATE UPDATE
Senior Engineer Hoover Ng stated that perchlorate over 4 ppb has been found in a few production wells in Central Basin and in 4 monitoring wells at the detection limit of 4 ppb. On January 18, 2002, the State Department of Health Services (DHS) reduced the action level from 18 ppb to 4 ppb. Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code requires DHS to adopt a new MCL by January 1, 2004. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has issued draft public health goals (PHG). OEHHA has indicated that the appropriate level should be 2 ppb for children and 6 ppb for adults. Typically, OEHHA will receive testimony and then finalize the PHG, at which time DHS will consider technical and economic impacts as well as the PHG to establish a draft MCL.

On November 17, 2003, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-2-03, which suspended rulemaking for 6 months to reassess the impacts of potential regulations. The State Senate Select Committee on Perchlorate Contamination held a public hearing on January 28, 2004 to receive testimony. Ms. Krista Clark of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) testified that it would be prudent for OEHHA to wait until the National Academy of Sciences completes a review of health effects studies and issues findings by the end of the year before they finalize the draft PHG. However, Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cal-EPA Secretary, indicated that he does not intend to delay issuance of the PHG.

Mr. Ng noted that it is likely that OEHHA will issue a final PHG during summer or fall 2004 and that DHS will issue a draft MCL for public comment in early 2005 and issue a final MCL in summer 2005.

Mr. Ng added that grant funding is available for perchlorate related studies from Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

VIII. GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE
Senior Hydrogeologist Nancy Matsumoto stated that several major cleanup investigations are currently in progress in the City of Santa Fe Springs at various sites. Though onsite cleanup efforts are underway, concern has been raised regarding the potential migration of contaminants off site. Several meetings have been held among the following agencies: Water Replenishment District, United States Environmental Protection

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted and circulated for review on October 23, 2003. It sets forth a basic understanding that each agency will work together cooperatively and that the District will serve as a clearinghouse for the data being collected. The latest meeting among the agencies was held on February 19 to refine and finalize the MOU and identify the next steps in this effort. WRD has also applied for AB303 grant funding for this program.

IX. SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM UPDATE
Assistant Engineer Charlene King provided an update on the following four wellhead treatment projects that are in the design and/or construction phase: Norwalk Well No. 8, Southern California Water Company (SCWC) Converse Well, City of Commerce Well 4L, and SCWC Imperial Wells 1, 2 and 3. Ms. King noted that staff is reviewing Suburban Water Systems and the City of Vernon as potential candidates for the program.

Discussion followed on the WRD Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendation to limit the Program to removing primary man-made contaminants and do away with the loan program.

Due to the District’s cash flow problems for the current fiscal year, the Committee recommended that this Program be re-evaluated at the next Committee meeting.

X. ROBERT W. GOLDSWORTHY DESALTER UPDATE
Senior Engineer Paul Fu stated that the Goldsworthy Desalter delivered approximately 218 acre-feet of drinking water to the City of Torrance in the month of January 2004. The chloride level in the well water in January remained within 1,000 to 1,200 mg/L, with average at 1,100 mg/L. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) collected the annual chloride verification sample on December 9, 2003. DWR notified WRD that the test results reported 1,140 mg/L which exceeds the 1,000 mg/L level requirement of the Judgment.

A membrane cleaning is tentatively scheduled for February 26th, 2004. The main objective is to relieve the high differential pressure through the first-stage reverse osmosis train.
XI. ADJOURNMENT
There being no more business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

__________________________
Chairperson

ATTEST:

__________________________
Director
MEMORANDUM
ITEM NO. IV

DATE: MARCH 22, 2004
TO: GROUNDWATER CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: GROUNDWATER QUALITY – PERCHLORATE UPDATE

SUMMARY
Perchlorate is a contaminant of industrial origin. It is a component of rocket fuel and can inhibit the uptake of iodide by the thyroid gland, which leads to the impairment of metabolism, effecting the proper development of young children, by creating tumors in the thyroid. On January 18, 2002, the State Department of Health Services (DHS) reduced the action level from 18 ppb to 4 ppb, the analytical detection limit. If a well is found to contain perchlorate above 40 ppb, (ten times the action level), the DHS recommends removing that well from service.

Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code requires DHS to adopt a new maximum contaminant level, (MCL) by January 1, 2004. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has issued draft public health goals (PHG). OEHHA has indicated that the appropriate level should be 2 ppb for children and 6 ppb for adults. Typically, OEHHA will receive testimony and then finalize the PHG, at which time DHS will consider technical and economic impacts as well as the PHG to establish a draft MCL.

A few production wells in Central Basin and four monitoring wells have had a detection limit of 4 ppb. Effective treatment to reduce ppb is with ion exchange, bioreactors, and granular activated carbon (GAC). MWD’s Colorado River water has had levels between 4 and 6 ppb, but blends have been consistently at 4 ppb.

On November 17, 2003, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-2-03, which suspended rulemaking for 6 months to reassess the impacts of potential regulations. The State Senate Select Committee on Perchlorate Contamination held a public hearing on January 28, 2004 to receive testimony. Ms. Krista Clark of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) testified that it would be prudent for OEHHA to wait until the National Academy of Sciences completes a review of health effects studies and issues findings by the end of the year before they finalize the draft PHG. However, Mr. Terry Tamminen, Cal- EPA Secretary, indicated that he does not intend to delay issuance of the PHG.

The Association of California Water Agencies has learned that OEHHA plans to issue the final PHG March 10 -12, 2004, at 6 ppb. However, they will review the NAS study when it is released later in the year and will reissue the final PHG if there are conflicts. DHS will most
likely issue a draft MCL for public comment in early 2005 and issue a final MCL in the summer of 2005.

**FISCAL IMPACT**
None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**
For Information.
DATE: MARCH 22, 2004

TO: GROUNDWATER CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE

FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

SUBJECT: GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION PREVENTION PLAN UPDATE

SUMMARY
As reported in previous updates, several major cleanup investigations are currently in progress in Santa Fe Springs at various sites. Though onsite cleanup efforts are underway, concern has been raised regarding the potential migration of contaminants off site. Several meetings have been held among the following agencies: Water Replenishment District, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Geological Survey, State Regional Water Quality Control Board, and State Department of Toxic Substances Control.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was drafted and circulated for review on October 23, 2003. It sets forth a basic understanding that each agency will work together cooperatively and that the District will serve as a clearinghouse for the data being collected. The latest meeting among the agencies was held on February 19, to refine and finalize the MOU and identify the next steps in this effort. Meanwhile, WRD has applied for AB303 grant funding for this program.

FISCAL IMPACT
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
For information.
DATE: MARCH 11, 2004
TO: GROUNDWATER CLEANUP COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM UPDATE

SUMMARY

The District is currently managing several projects under its Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP), which provides wellhead treatment facilities to remove contaminants and improve water quality. There are four projects in the design and/or construction phase. The following is a brief update of activities:

1) Installation of a granular activated carbon (GAC) system at Norwalk Well 8 Project began January 26, 2004. The Board authorized awarding the contract for construction of the system to Pacific Hydrotech Corporation. Completion of construction is expected to be about four months.

2) Don Howard Engineers has completed the design and specifications for facilities at Southern California Water Company’s (SCWC) Converse Well. The Converse Project will use the treatment vessels from the Hoffman Project and SCWC will act as lead agency to procure all contracts in accordance with WRD’s current contract policy.

3) Don Howard Engineers has completed the design and specifications for City of Commerce’s Well 4L (operated by Cal Water Service), and the Board authorized initiating the bid process. The environmental public review period ended August 29, 2003 and a negative declaration was adopted by the Board on November 19, 2003. The project is currently on hold pending review of the final agreement between the city and the District.

4) An amendment to the agreement with SCWC was executed on September 17, 2003 to incorporate a reimbursement program for the Imperial Wells 1, 2, & 3 Project. SCWC will be the lead agency procuring all contracts in accordance with WRD’s current contract policy. SCWC is finalizing the design and specifications for the project and will submit them to the District for review and approval prior to bidding.
FISCAL IMPACT
These projects total $2.8 million and were included in the FY 03-04 Budget under the Safe Drinking Water Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
For information.
DATE: MARCH 22, 2004
TO: GROUNDWATER CLEANUP COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM POLICY

SUMMARY

As part of its Clean Water Programs, WRD’s Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) was designed to provide wellhead treatment to pumpers with production wells affected by known contaminants. This enables the pumper to keep an impacted facility on-line or reactivate one that was previously shut down. The program also assists in WRD’s effort to clean up existing contamination by pumping and treating the groundwater at that particular site. This process increases the rate at which the pollutants are removed from the groundwater supply, thereby lessening the risk of migrating contamination that may affect other wells. Wellhead treatment also increases the utilization of local resources, which reduces dependence on imported supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River.

As a result of the program, there are currently eleven (11) WRD wellhead treatment facilities in operation and pumpers continue to request assistance through the program. Wells are currently evaluated for assistance based on factors such as water quality data and production history. When assistance is deemed necessary, WRD and the groundwater producer jointly develop a treatment solution for the subject well.

The current policy for the program includes two forms of assistance. First, for wells affected by volatile organic compounds (VOCs), WRD provides wellhead treatment equipment for use at the well. WRD also provides funding for the design and construction required to integrate the equipment at the well site. The District retains ownership of the treatment equipment and allows the producer to use it as long as necessary. The program was later expanded to address additional groundwater quality problems. For treatment systems of wells affected by primary and secondary constituents (other than VOCs) as identified by Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, WRD provides no-interest financing for design and construction of a wellhead treatment facility for a term of ten years. In this second scenario, the groundwater producer owns the treatment facility at the end of the financing term.

On December 9, 2003, staff discussed with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) the structure and benefits of the SDWP. While acknowledging the value of the program, the TAC also suggested that the District review and potentially eliminate the non-VOC component of the
SDWP because future water quality regulations may inundate the program with a multitude of project requests for naturally-occurring constituents such as iron, manganese, arsenic, etc.

In June 2001, a pilot facility to evaluate iron, manganese, and arsenic removal technologies at Southern California Water Company’s Century Well was constructed with a grant through the SDWP, but currently, only one existing project – City of Signal Hill Wells 7 and 8 – utilizes the non-VOC financing component of the program.

In recent months, several pumpers have requested SDWP assistance for arsenic removal and/or iron and manganese treatment, but acceptance of these projects has been deferred to the next fiscal year because of budget constraints and the unresolved issue of future financing for non-VOC contamination.

The committee is requested to review the current policy of the SDWP and consider the deferral of financing for non-VOC treatment projects.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee recommend to the Board that the structure of the Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) be revised. This revision would be to prioritize acceptance of projects involving VOC contamination and only finance those non-VOC treatment projects with SDWP budgeted funds not encumbered by a VOC project in the first six months of the fiscal year.
DATE: MARCH 22, 2004
TO: GROUNDWATER CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBB WHITAKER
SUBJECT: ROBERT W. GOLDSWORTHY DESALTER UPDATE

SUMMARY
The Goldsworthy Desalter delivered approximately 188 acre-feet of drinking water to the City of Torrance in the month of February 2004. The chloride level in the well water in February (through 2/20/04) continued to exceed 1,000 mg/L and generally range from 1,100 to 1,300 mg/L.

A membrane cleaning was performed on February 26, 2004. The main objective is to relieve the high differential pressure through the first-stage RO train, thus lowering the feed pressure. After the cleaning, the facility experienced difficulties in start-up due to control/software problems. A control program specialist assisted with troubleshooting, and the facility was brought back to normal operations on February 28. The system feed pressure was lowered by approximately 6 psi from the level experienced prior to the membrane cleaning. More operationing data will be collected in the coming weeks to assess the conditions of the membranes and the effectiveness of the cleaning.

FISCAL IMPACT
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
For information.