

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

JANUARY 9, 2006 – Water Resources
 Cole, Vasquez
JANUARY 23, 2006 – Board Meeting
 Prepared by: Gus Meza
 Submitted by: Paul Shoenberger
 Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

WIRELESS WEATHER-BASED IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS (WBICs)
RESEARCH STUDY CONTRACT

SUMMARY:

In January 2005, the District partnered with HydroEarth and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to develop a research project that will test the application of wireless technology to irrigation controllers.

The District was successful in its Proposition 50, Chapter 7 – Water Use Efficiency application and was awarded a \$164,052 grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to test the development and installation of 45 wireless Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WBICs). The project seeks to use wireless technology and centralized communication systems to manage irrigation valves efficiently, thus conserving water, reducing runoff and developing an end-use solution to help landscape staffs manage their irrigation systems more effectively.

Project Description and Goals

The project will include 45 WBICs and communication systems targeting cities, parks, and large landscape areas (one-acre and greater) within the target area. A total of 30 sites will use the wireless valves and communication systems, while the remaining 15 sites will only use the communication systems and be used as control sites. The project will be monitored and recorded. One of the project goals is to provide the water industry with sound research data to determine whether wireless irrigation valves and end-use management is technically feasible for revolutionizing the management of exterior urban water use.

Partnership Funding Breakout

Agency/Partner	Funding Contribution Amount	In-Kind Contribution (staff time, etc.)	Percentage of Total Program Cost
DWR	\$164,052		54%
MWD	\$ 41,995		14%
CBMWD		\$12,925	4%
Cities/Schools		\$46,031	15%
HydroEarth		\$37,049	13%
Total	\$206,047	\$96,005	100%

Total project cost (including actual funding and in-kind contributions) is \$302,052.

Next Steps

Once the contract is awarded, staff and HydroEarth will begin targeting suitable sites and working with the various cities and water agencies to install, monitor and implement the project.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The cost of this project will be a pass-through for the District. The District will pay the vendor and will be reimbursed by DWR and MWD.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on January 9, 2006 and was recommended for approval at the January 23, 2006 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co-General Managers to execute an Agreement with HydroEarth, Inc. to develop and implement the District's Wireless Weather-Based Irrigation Controller Research Study for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$206,047, funded by MWD and the State grant proceeds.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.