

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT **AUGUST 9, 2006 - Communications**
Apodaca, Vasquez
AUGUST 28, 2006 - Board Meeting
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INFORMATION CALENDAR

HOLLYDALE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN UPDATE

SUMMARY:

In July 2006, the “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) for the Hollydale School Garden Project was signed by the South Gate City Council, marking the successful completion of the joint agreement. The City currently leases the site of the proposed garden from Southern California Edison (SCE). Under the agreement, the City has agreed to temporarily vacate the site to allow the land to be leased to the Paramount Unified School District for the creation of the garden.

In addition to the City, the other parties required to sign the MOU were the Paramount Unified School District and Central Basin. Now that the MOU has been signed by all parties, a separate agreement will be drafted between Central Basin and SCE. Once completed, the District can move forward with securing services for garden construction, which is expected to last approximately four months.

According to the MOU, Central Basin is responsible for design, construction and irrigation of the garden. Once constructed, Hollydale Elementary School, which is part of the Paramount Unified School District, will be responsible for garden maintenance.

The Hollydale Garden Project started in 2004 when the District began the collaborative effort to create an educational, interactive garden for the students of Hollydale Elementary School, located on Century Boulevard in South Gate. The garden, which has been developed around the school’s curriculum, will include drought resistant plants, fruits and vegetables.

Since 2004, the challenge of coordinating a joint agreement between multiple municipalities has created numerous setbacks for the project. Now that the MOU is completed, the garden project can move forward. The design for the garden has long been completed and approved by SCE, Paramount Unified School District and the South Gate Fire Department.

The overall project cost is estimated at \$35,000. In 2005, Central Basin was awarded a \$6,000 grant for the project from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, through the City Makeover Program. The grant will fund the California native plant portion, which will be easily visible and accessible to both students and community members.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Communications Committee on August 9, 2006 and was agendaized to the August 28, 2006 Board meeting as information for discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

This item is for information only.

EXHIBITS:

None.

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