

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 12, 2006 - Water Resources
Cole, Vasquez

OCTOBER 24, 2006 - Board Meeting

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ACTION CALENDAR

TRANSFER OF THE TITLE 22 GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAMSUMMARY:

Central Basin has been administering the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program for its purveyors for over 10 years. This voluntary program assists retail water agencies in complying with the State of California drinking water regulations as related to groundwater production Wells. Twenty-nine of the thirty-five purveyors within the Central Basin service area participate in this program. The Title 22 Program was originally intended to be administered at no net cost to Central Basin but has, in fact, been administered at an average annual net loss of \$20,000 to the District.

The Appropriate Agency to Administer the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program

Central Basin should reconsider whether to continue administering the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program since this program is not well-matched to Central Basin's mission and goals. The District's missions and goals are to acquire and make available imported water within the service area and to additionally reduce reliance on imported water through conservation and the use of recycled water in place of potable water.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) has expressed an interest to become the lead agency and administer the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program. The Title 22 Program is also compatible with WRD's mission and goals which are "to provide, protect and preserve high-quality groundwater through innovative, cost-effective and environmentally sensitive basin management practices for the benefit of residents and businesses of the Central and West Coast Basins."

Based on each agency's respective mission and goals and WRD's interest to administer the program, Central Basin should consider appropriately transferring the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program to WRD.

Orderly Transfer of the Title 22 Program

Central Basin does not have contractual obligations with purveyors to administer the Title 22 Program. Nevertheless to be considerate of the purveyors' interest and to promote a seamless transfer of the Title 22 Program to WRD, the following are among the action items needed for an orderly transfer of the program:

- Inform the purveyors and the State Department of Health Services that the Central Basin will be transitioning the Title 22 Program to WRD. (This announcement should be timed with WRD's announcement offering Title 22 Program services);

- Continue providing Title 22 laboratory services to the purveyors until December 31, 2006 or until WRD is set up to provide laboratory services;
- Provide copies of the water quality electronic database to WRD; and
- Provide to WRD hardcopies of the water quality results for the last three years

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to establish criteria for a program to monitor unregulated contaminants and to identify no more than 30 contaminants to be monitored every five years. This resulted in the UCMR 1, which required groundwater assessment monitoring be conducted by public water systems over a 12-month period between 2001 and 2003. UCMR 2 is the second cycle of the groundwater monitoring and would occur between July 2007 and June 2010.

A number of Central Basin purveyors have expressed a desire for Central Basin to conduct UCMR 2 groundwater testing. UCMR testing is distinctly different than the Title 22 sampling program and has never been a program that the Board has authorized. During UCMR 1, staff did not adhere to District policy and provided UCMR testing to the purveyors without Board authorization and by directing the contract lab to provide services not authorized under the professional services agreement.

At this time, no recommendation is being made to provide any new groundwater sampling service which the Board has not already authorized.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program is intended to be operated at no net cost to Central Basin with laboratory fees incurred by Central Basin being reimbursed through a quarterly invoicing and staff time to administer the program would be reimbursed through an annual assessment. However, the program has been operating at an annual net loss of \$20,000 to Central Basin since assessment rates have not been raised for 12 years. The transfer of the Title 22 Program would relieve Central Basin of this annual net loss.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

There are no compliance matters required in transferring the Title 22 program.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on October 12, 2006 and was recommended for approval at the October 24, 2006 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manager to negotiate the possible transfer of the Title 22 Groundwater Monitoring Program to the Water Replenishment District.