



City of Manhattan Beach

CITY COUNCIL

November 23, 2015

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West Basin Desalination Project
West Basin Municipal Water District
17140 South Avalon Boulevard, Suite 210
Carson, CA 90746

Re: West Basin Ocean Water Desalination Project

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Manhattan Beach City Council, this letter has been submitted in regards to the proposed West Basin Desalination project, which is proposed to be located in the City of El Segundo and includes appurtenant facilities within the City of Manhattan Beach.

The City recognizes and applauds West Basin for being a strong leader in the production of recycled water and specifically, we understand that West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 program is designed to shift future water supplies to more locally-controlled and reliable sources of water. A key focus and mission of West Basin is to invest in state-of-the-art water recycling programs to specifically meet the customers' needs. As promoted by West Basin, "nothing is more reliable and sustainable than recycled water."

According to West Basin, during the next 15 years, California must reduce its imported water supply by nearly 1 million acre-feet (one acre-foot equals 326,000 gallons). As the available water supply is decreasing, the demand for water is increasing. To ensure that there is enough water to meet present and future needs, West Basin specifically supports the need to conserve water and expand the use of recycled water. The City fully supports this mission and as further discussed below, encourages other options rather than the proposed West Basin Desalination Project.

The City believes that West Basin can meet the current and future water demands by expanding its use of recycled water. West Basin already

produces large volumes of “designer” recycled water to meet the needs of their customers for irrigation, cooling towers, seawater barriers and groundwater replenishment, and low and high pressure boilers. West Basin can expand their facilities to produce additional water supplies or can work cooperatively with the Water Replenishment District (WRD) to utilize additional water supplies produced by WRD’s new Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program (GRIP) to further increase water supplies.

As you are aware, WRD’s GRIP program takes treated wastewater from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and further cleans it to drinking water standards. The purified water is then used to replenish the groundwater basin and protect the seawater barriers. The GRIP program intends to produce an additional 21,000 acre-feet of recycled water, which will instantly increase water supply portfolios for West Basin or the Metropolitan Water District by the same amount. Given the opportunities that are available for recycled water, the City strongly opposes the West Basin Desalination plant as we see a number of alternatives that would serve the community in a more environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Burton".

Mark Burton
City of Manhattan Beach Mayor

cc: City Council
Mark Danaj, City Manager