

MINUTES OF WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

M60050.001162
MCAS EL TORO
SSIC # 5090.3

January 12, 1995, 7:30 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Water Issues Committee was held on Thursday, January 12, 1995, in Conference Room C-2 at the District office. All members of the Committee were present: Directors Kathryn L. Barr, Water Issues Committee Chairman; Lawrence P. Kraemer Jr., Vice Chairman; Langdon W. Owen; Irv Pickler; Bud Quist; and President Philip L. Anthony, *Ex Officio*. Also present were Directors John V. Fonley and George Osborne, and, during the latter part of the meeting, Directors Wes Bannister and Daniel E. Griset. Staff attending were General Manager William R. Mills Jr., Assistant General Manager John M. Chaufy; District Secretary Mary E. Johnson; Director of Engineering Steven R. Conklin; Engineers Lawrence P. Kraemer III and Charles Z. Steinbergs, Executive Assistant to the General Manager James Van Haun; Hydrogeology Department Manager Roy Herndon; Risk Manager Debra Van Haun; Chief Microbiologist Harry Ridgway; and Assistant District Secretary Barbara White.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Petition for exemption from Replenishment and Basin Equity Assessments for groundwater extraction in City of Irvine, filed on behalf of Prudential Realty Group and Beckman Instruments

The Agenda packets contained a petition filed by Harding Lawson Associates on behalf of its clients, the Prudential Realty Group and Beckman Instruments, Inc., for exemption from payment of replenishment and basin equity assessments for groundwater extracted at the Prudential/Beckman site in the City of Irvine. Mr. Herndon stated that while the site is owned by Prudential, the underlying aquifer was apparently contaminated with solvents (PCE and TCE) by manufacturing activities of Beckman Instruments, the former occupant. He noted that it has been determined that the contaminated aquifer is hydraulically connected to principal aquifers in the Irvine subbasin. He advised that as part of a groundwater contamination remediation program at the site, approximately 578 acre-feet per year of groundwater is currently extracted from two aquifer zones by 10 extraction wells, and then discharged to the San Joaquin Marsh under permit by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Mr. Herndon reported that staff finds the petition for exemption meets the District Act requirements in that the water is not suitable for domestic or agricultural purposes, production of the contaminated water will not adversely affect the basin, and basin quality will be protected by removal of the volatile organic compounds through groundwater production at the site.

It was moved by Director Pickler, seconded by Director Kraemer and carried, to recommend that the Board receive and file the Petition for Exemption and the Staff Report and schedule a public hearing February 15, 1995.

During discussion it was agreed that the Regional Board should be contacted regarding the desirability of additional investigation for and removal of groundwater contaminants in the vicinity.

2. Irvine Desalter Project: revision to design and construction approach 

Mr. Mills and Mr. Conklin summarized the status of the Irvine Desalter Project. Mr. Mills recalled that the U.S. Navy has admitted responsibility for TCE groundwater contamination on site and in the vicinity of the El Toro U.S. Marine Corps Air Station. He further recalled that while the Navy has agreed to pay a share of the cost of the Irvine Desalter Project, it is questioning what the amount of its fair share should be. He observed that adequate federal funding is particularly important since the project economics are adversely affected by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's lowered projections for its future water rates.

Mr. Conklin recalled that the original plans for the desalter project were to bid three alternative designs: reverse osmosis only; RO with a brine concentrator, using either ED or EDR electro dialysis processes; and a hybrid system consisting of membrane softening (MS) followed by RO. He explained that at one time cost estimates for each of these systems for capital and O&M were similar, so that it was intended to bid the three designs and then select the desired system and design the site facilities accordingly. He reviewed staff's current recommendation to select RO only as the treatment method, citing advances in RO technology and advances in RO antiscaling chemicals which increase RO efficiency. He reported that results to date at the Eastern Municipal Water District's Menefee pilot plant, which utilizes ED, are not as promising as had been expected, and that the Irvine Ranch Water District and the Irvine Desalter Project consultants are also recommending utilizing RO only.

Mr. Conklin reviewed a chronology of events for the project, culminating in the District's issuance of Contract No. IDP-94-1 in October 1994 for prepurchase of the membrane treatment system equipment in order to accelerate the project. He presented staff's recommendation to cancel this contract. Mr. Conklin noted that during continued negotiations with the Navy, design work will proceed and construction could still be completed by 1997.

After discussion, it was moved by Director Quist, seconded by Director Pickler and carried, to recommend that the Board adopt a resolution: 1) receiving and filing the Affidavit of Publication of the Notice Inviting Bids for Contract No. IDP-94-1, Irvine Desalter Project Membrane Treatment System; 2) ratifying issuance of Addendum No. 1 which extended the Bid opening date from December 13, 1994 to February 14, 1995; and 3) authorizing issuance of Addendum No. 2 to cancel bidding under the IDP-94-1 contract.

3. Mesa Verde Partners Costa Mesa Country Club hookup to Green Acres Project

Mr. Mills recalled that, pursuant to Board directive, staff has been negotiating with the Costa Mesa Country Club for Green Acres Project water service. He summarized a proposed