

Santa Margarita Water District



MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

DATE: March 18, 2016

FROM: Dan Ferons

SUBJECT: Water Supply Projects Update

DISCUSSION

The District has an adopted strategic plan goal of the 10,000 to 14,000 acre feet (AF) of alternative domestic water supply other than Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Currently the annual domestic water demand is approximately 24,000 AF and prior to the drought declaration it was 28,000 AF. The plan is for 30 to 50% of the supply to be under direct control of the District thereby reducing reliance on imported water from Colorado River or Northern California.

The current water supply projects that are in various stages of review or planning are:

- **Cadiz:** 5,000 AF of firm supply with an option for an additional 10,000 AF. This is raw water delivered to the Colorado River Aqueduct for proposed wheeling through the MWD system to the District for treatment at the Diemer Filtration Plant or the Baker Treatment Plant. CEQA litigation is ongoing with the Appeals Court date set for March 23, 2016. Cadiz is working with the Bureau of Land Management to review BLM's determination for use of the railroad right-of-way for construction of the pipeline and MWD is reviewing its proposed operation of the Colorado River Aqueduct in the future.
- **Poseidon:** OCWD is reviewing delivery options if it enters into a purchase arrangement with Poseidon Huntington Beach. One of the options is delivery of 10 MGD to south county agencies by agreement. The District is interested in potentially receiving 5,000 AF. The Coastal Commission is scheduling a hearing on the permit application, potentially in May or July. The project has also submitted to the MWD Local Resource Program for funding. OCWD has not finalized participation in the plant.
- **San Juan Watershed:** The San Juan Basin Authority is finalizing a proposed project which can be developed in phases. The project report is scheduled to be completed this month. The District is reviewing the alternatives and phasing of the various elements including stormwater recharge, urban return flows and recycled water. A schedule will be developed over the next couple of weeks for review with the Board of Directors.

- **Cucamonga Valley Water District:** The District has been working with various agencies to develop a delivery mechanism for supplemental water during the drought per the existing agreements. The water may be delivered via the Santa Ana River during low flow conditions, for subsequent delivery via a partner agency within the basin.

Part of the analysis is looking at the demand curves for the year. As we consider the various deals we can enter into, the low flow environment may control the level of projects we participate in and how we participate. For example, we have 13 cfs capacity in the Baker Plant, which is 9,412 AF per year of supply or 785 AF per month. Our minimum flows for a day or two during the rainy season are 14 or 15 cfs, the average low is 17 or 18 cfs. As we discussed recently, this will impact our demands on the MWD treated capacity system with it being used for peaking.