

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
4040 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD, LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90712**

**4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017**

**AGENDA**

Each item on the agenda, no matter how described, shall be deemed to include any appropriate motion, whether to adopt a minute motion, resolution, payment of any bill, approval of any matter or action, or any other action. Items listed as "For Information" or "For Discussion" may also be the subject of an "action" taken by the Board or a Committee at the same meeting.

- 1. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. INVOCATION**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3*
- 5. ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**  
Determine the need to add items to the agenda. In order for the Board to add an item to the agenda it must make a determination that: (i) The item came to the attention of the Board after the posting of the agenda; (ii) That there is a need for immediate action to be taken by the Board. If these two tests are met, the Board may add the item in question to the agenda for consideration consistent with the provisions of the Brown Act.
- 6. WHITTIER NARROWS CONSERVATION POOL UPDATE**  
Staff Recommendation: The Capital Improvement Projects Committee reviewed this item prior to the Special Board meeting of March 23, 2017. Therefore, the Committee will present for discussion and possible action at the Special Board of Directors meeting.
- 7. AB 1234 COMPLIANCE REPORTS AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS**
- 8. WRD BOARD MEETING DATES**
  - A.** April 6, 2017 – 3:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Directors Meeting
  - B.** April 20, 2017 – 3:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Directors Meeting
  - C.** May 5, 2017 – 3:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Directors Workshop
  - D.** May 19, 2017 – 3:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Directors Meeting

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The Board will adjourn to the next Board of Directors meeting currently scheduled for April 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda posted by Sherri Brown, Senior Administrative Specialist on March 22, 2017. In compliance with ADA requirements, this document can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if special assistance is needed to participate in the meeting, please contact Senior Administrative Specialist Sherri Brown at (562) 921-5521 for assistance to enable the District to make reasonable accommodations.

All public records relating to an agenda item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the time the record is distributed to all, or a majority of all, members of the Board. Such records shall be available at the District office located at 4040 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California 90712.

Agendas and minutes are available at the District's website, [www.wrd.org](http://www.wrd.org).

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES – If you challenge a District action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the District office at, or prior to, the public hearing. Any written correspondence delivered to the District office before the District's final action on a matter will become a part of the administrative record.



## MEMORANDUM

### ITEM NO. 6

**DATE:** MARCH 23, 2017

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** ROBB WHITAKER, GENERAL MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** WHITTIER NARROWS CONSERVATION POOL UPDATE

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### SUMMARY

The Whittier Narrows Dam, which roughly separates the Central Basin from the Main San Gabriel Basin, provides flood control, recreation and a reliable means of capturing storm water flows for groundwater replenishment in the Montebello Forebay. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and WRD have been studying ways to increase the allowable height that storm water can be temporarily held behind the dam (conservation pool) by about 3 ½ feet from an elevation of 201.6 feet to 205 feet to allow an estimated 1,100 acre-feet per year of additional storm water capture and recharge for the benefit of WRD stakeholders. At an imported water rate to WRD of \$731 per acre-foot for recharge water, the value of this water is \$800,000 per year. The elevation of the top of the Dam is 239 feet, therefore the new conservation pool elevation will be 34 feet from the top of the Dam. To accomplish this, it is necessary to complete an updated Whittier Narrows Feasibility Study (Study) to permanently increase the maximum conservation pool elevation to 205'. The annual conservation benefit of this project is an important component of WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) Program.

In 2015, WRD and LACFCD entered into an agreement where WRD would fund up to \$1.4 million to assist USACE in performing the analysis to increase the conservation pool. WRD was successful in obtaining \$576,000 in grant funding to offset this cost under Proposition 84. The benefit of pursuing this action was proven this year during the wet winter as the USACE was able to temporarily allow the conservation pool to increase to an elevation of 205 feet as a demonstration, and an additional approximate 4,500 acre-feet of storm water was captured for groundwater replenishment that otherwise would have been wasted to the ocean. This storm water capture equates to a \$3.3 million in value compared to imported water.

The Water Resources Committee has followed this project closely and has expressed support, yet is concerned about the time it is taking for the USACE to complete the Study. In response to the Committee's concerns, the USACE attended the March 21, 2017 Water Resources Committee meeting to reiterate their commitment to completing the Study with a goal of having a Major Deviation Study approved by October 2017 that would allow five more years of operating the dam at a conservation pool elevation of 205' with the goal of permanently setting the conservation pool at 205' after completion of the update of the Whittier Narrows Feasibility Study. WRD is currently at a point where it will need to release funding for the continuation of

this effort. The amount of this next round of funding from WRD is \$340,000. Because of this, the Water Resources Committee requested staff to bring this item to the Capital Improvement Program Committee and the full Board of Directors for continued discussion prior to any continued funding by WRD.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time. Per the contract previously approved by WRD with LACFCD, the District will reimburse LACFCD fees paid to USACE; \$475,000 for the first year of work (2015 – already paid) followed by \$340,000 each year until the maximum of \$1.4 million is reached, or less if the project comes under budget.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Capital Improvement Committee reviewed this item prior to the Special Board meeting of March 23, 2017. Therefore, the Committee will present for discussion and possible action at the Special Board of Directors meeting.