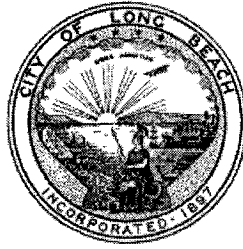


City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve



Suja Lowenthal
Councilmember, 2nd District

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

June 17, 2008

From: Suja Lowenthal, Second District 

Subject: Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Monthly Update

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file report on the actions taken at the Metropolitan Water District Board meeting held on June 10, 2008.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

I wish to bring the following action to the Council's attention:

The MWD Board of Directors voted to oppose AB 885 (Calderon) outright. AB 885 would grant the City of Long Beach, and twenty other member agencies of the MWD (currently limited to one representative) with the ability to appoint one alternate board representative if they chose to do so, to serve in place of the principal board representative should they be absent. Currently, if a MWD member agency's sole board representative is absent from an MWD Board of Directors meeting for any reason, that member agency goes unrepresented and without a vote for that particular Board meeting. Conversely, the five largest MWD member agencies that are afforded more than one board representative retain full voting power, despite one or more of that agency's board representatives being absent.

As a result, I opposed the action taken by the Board of Directors because there needs to be more flexibility in the MWD Act to bring greater parity to member agencies with only one board representative such as Long Beach.

Please see the attached letter from Mayor Foster to Assemblymember Charles Calderon. Information about AB 885 may be found at www.leginfo.ca.gov.



MAYOR BOB FOSTER

CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 27, 2008

The Honorable Charles Calderon
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Assembly Bill 885: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am writing to express our support for the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 885: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). AB 885, which is co-sponsored by the Long Beach Water Department, would amend the Metropolitan Water District Act to allow member agencies to appoint an alternate representative to act and vote in meetings on behalf of the primary representative, in their absence.

The Long Beach Water Department, along with 21 other member agencies, is currently allocated only one representative to serve on the MWD Board of Directors. When this representative is absent for any reason, the Water Department and other member agencies like it, simply go unrepresented. However, the remaining five member agencies, who each have multiple representatives (the highest current number of representatives for any agency is four), continue to have the full voting strength of each representative, as long as at least one representative is present.

Given the current water-related issues facing the Southern California area, including drought conditions, increasing water rates, and uncertainty regarding the future of the State's water supply, the City of Long Beach wants to ensure that our voice, as well as the collective voices of all of the MWD's member agencies, continues to be heard. The City of Long Beach and the Long Beach Water Department are committed to actively working with MWD to address these critical issues, and the passage of AB 885 will only help facilitate this worthwhile process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Foster".

Mayor Bob Foster
City of Long Beach

CC: The Honorable Edward Vincent, State Senate, 25th District
The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, State Senate, 27th District
The Honorable Jenny Oropeza, State Senate, 28th District
The Honorable Mervyn Dymally, State Assembly, 52nd District
The Honorable Betty Karnette, State Assembly, 54th District
The Honorable Warren Furutani, State Assembly, 55th District
Patrick H. West, City Manager

333 WEST OCEAN BOULEVARD, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802
TELEPHONE 562-570-6801 FAX 562-570-6538 MAYOR@LONGBEACH.GOV





City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve


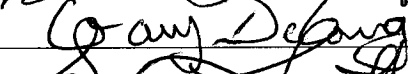

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: June 10, 2008
To: Larry Herrera, City Clerk
From: Councilmember Suja Lowenthal
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of **June 17, 2008**

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Receive and file report on the actions taken at the Metropolitan Water District Board meeting held on June 10, 2008.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
1	Bonnie Lowenthal	
3	Gary DeLong	
2	SUJA LOWENTHAL	

Attachment: Staff Report dated **June 17, 2008**

CC: Office of the Mayor