

ITEM RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 7, 2016
To: Communications/Leg.Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors
From: Mike Markus
Staff Contact: E.Torres/A.Dunkin

Budgeted: N/A
Budgeted Amount: N/A
Cost Estimate: N/A
Funding Source: N/A
Program/Line Item No.: N/A
General Counsel Approval: N/A
Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A
CEQA Compliance: N/A

POLICY ISSUE: CHANGE POSITION TO CO-SPONSOR PROPOSED BILL TO BOTTLE ADVANCED PURIFIED WATER FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

SUMMARY

On October 21, 2015, the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors voted to take a position to support the WaterReuse Association with potential new legislation efforts to bottle advanced purified water (formerly wastewater) for educational purposes to demonstrate that the water is safe, reliable and can be a source of water during an emergency such as an earthquake. On January 4, 2016, WaterReuse requested that OCWD co-sponsor the proposed legislation because OCWD already has demonstrated that tasting the water is safe and has a reputation of being the state's leading example of water recycling. The last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel is January 22, which is why consideration to change OCWD's position on the new bill cannot be postponed until February's Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for January 20 Board meeting: Change OCWD's position on WaterReuse Association's proposed legislation to bottle advanced purified water for educational purposes from "support" to "co-sponsor" with WaterReuse.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

On November 4, 2015 at WaterReuse CA's legislative committee meeting, OCWD staff requested that WaterReuse sponsor new legislation in 2016 that will allow the bottling of advanced purified water for educational purposes.

The bottling of advanced purified water will provide an opportunity for OCWD, WaterReuse and other water agencies to further educate legislators, policy makers and the general public regarding the benefits of using advanced purified water, its quality and safety.

Using advanced water purification technology, billions of gallons of water that would otherwise be wasted to the ocean can be reused and serve as a safe and reliable source of new water to help fulfill California's ever-growing demand. As such, new legislation to allow

the bottling of advanced purified water is an excellent means of allowing Californian's who don't have the opportunity to visit OCWD's advanced purification facility in Fountain Valley to experience how cutting edge technology is being used to purify wastewater to a near-distilled quality to protect and replenish the Orange County Groundwater Basin.

This bill provides an opportunity to educate Californians about OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) and its role in helping provide solutions to California's persistent drought and water supply shortage issues. Bottling the water also allows Board members and staff the ability to transport GWRS water to conferences and presentations, making the experiences more impactful.

BACKGROUND

AB 1100, in the 2010 legislative session, dealt with the bottling of advanced purified water. The bill passed the Assembly unanimously in 2010, in the Senate it was referred to Health Committee and passed (10-1), and when the bill was up in the Environmental Quality Committee it failed (the bill did not pass by a narrow margin). OCWD staff and consultants think that this bill could be successfully chaptered in 2016 because (1) there is broader acceptance for potable reuse, (2) this bill is only for educational purposes, (3) the bottled water is not for re-sale, and (4) the GWRS has been successfully operating since January 2008.