



Meeting Date: 02 / 13 / 07

| ACTION | TYPE OF ITEM |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson Agenda Item No. I-8
 Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] City Attorney [Signature] Finance SW Other (Specify) _____

TO: City Council

FROM: Ken Ortega, Public Works Director [Signature]
Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Support for Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Program (GREAT), Delegation of Authority to the City Manager to Execute Letters.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council:

1. Execute a letter of support requesting inclusion of financial support for the GREAT Program in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute letters of support to advance legislation favorably benefiting GREAT program activities and which letters are required to be written and mailed under severe time constraints.

DISCUSSION

City Council policy is that any support of or opposition to any proposed legislative action by a federal entity requires a letter approved by the City Council, requiring the requisite lead time to prepare an agenda item for a scheduled meeting of the City Council. Oftentimes, however, a letter of support may be requested with short notice to advance a legislative component of the GREAT program. The request for language in the Water Resources Development Act, contained within this agenda item is a relevant example. By delegating the authority to sign such letters to the City Manager, the City Council will enable staff to respond more expeditiously to these matters. This authorization would only pertain to the parameters of the GREAT Program that are on going; and in this way would not be a marked departure from the City Council's overall policy on such matters.

The City developed its GREAT Program for both City and regional water reliability, quality, and supply benefit, in cooperation with the following agencies: the United Water Conservation District, a water wholesaler which is responsible for the water resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed, Calleguas Municipal Water District, an imported water wholesaler and member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management

Agency, which is responsible for regulating groundwater pumping from the historically over pumped groundwater aquifers in coastal southwestern Ventura County.

Benefits of the GREAT Program include:

- Improving water supply reliability and potable water quality.
- Reducing reliance on imported water.
- Guaranteeing sufficient water supply to meet increasing demands.
- Developing recycled water as a new water source for the region.
- Alleviating severely depressed coastal groundwater aquifers.
- Minimizing cost impacts upon local residents and businesses.

WRDA legislation provides the Corps of Engineers with the authority to study water resource problems, construct projects, and make major modifications to projects. WRDA bills also contain general provisions as well as special study authorizations.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time as this item involves legislative policy for on-going operations. The receipt of funds from the WRDA would benefit the GREAT Program.

Attachment #1 Letter in support of financial assistance to the GREAT Program in the WRDA.



CITY COUNCIL OFFICE

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February 13, 2007

The Honorable Lois Capps, Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: FY 2007 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Request for the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Program

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

Congratulations on your recent re-election and your support of HR 2334. With a new session of Congress underway, the City of Oxnard encourages you to consider our request for funds pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) contained below:

“\$30,000,000 for water related GREAT program infrastructure projects that include: groundwater desalination, advanced treatment of wastewater to produce high-quality recycled water, recycled water distribution, demonstration-scale brine concentrate wetlands treatment, groundwater recharge and seawater intrusion barrier projects in the City of Oxnard and Oxnard Plain.”

As you know, Oxnard’s population of nearly 200,000 represents one-quarter of Ventura County’s population, and the GREAT Program would provide significant benefits to the residents and the region.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ken Ortega, Public Works Director at (805) 385-8308 should you have any additional questions about these projects. Thank you again for your past assistance and support of Oxnard.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

Dean Maulhardt
Mayor Pro Tem

John C. Zaragoza
Councilmember

Andres Herrera
Councilmember

Timothy B. Flynn
Councilman