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## **WEST BASIN EXTENDS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR POTENTIAL OCEAN WATER DESALINATION FACILITY TO JUNE 25, 2018**

*District provides an additional 31 days for community to review and provide comments on draft report*

**CARSON, Calif.** – [West Basin Municipal Water District](#) (West Basin) announces that the public comment period for the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the potential ocean water desalination facility in El Segundo, Calif. has been extended through Monday, June 25, 2018. The Board of Directors took action at its May 3, 2018 special board meeting to extend the public comment period an additional 31 days.

The report is available online at [www.westbasin.org/desal](http://www.westbasin.org/desal) and the general public is encouraged to attend an informational open house scheduled on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Richmond Street Elementary School in El Segundo, Calif.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that a public agency prepare an EIR when considering a project that may result in significant environmental impacts. A summary of these impacts is included in the "[Citizen's Guide](#)." CEQA requires a minimum 45 day review public comment period during a draft EIR. Prior to the release of the draft EIR, the West Basin Board of Directors voted to extend public comment to a 60-day period.

Due to community interest and requests from neighboring cities for additional time to review the draft document, West Basin will provide the community a 91-day public comment period, ending Monday June 25, 2018 at 5 p.m. Comments on the draft EIR may be submitted at a meeting, via mail or hand-delivery to the West Basin Municipal Water District office (17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Carson, CA 90746), via e-mail at [DesalEIR@westbasin.org](mailto:DesalEIR@westbasin.org), or via an [online comment form](#).

### **GET INVOLVED**

Input during the public comment period is a critical component of the CEQA process, as it helps to inform and refine the proposed project. West Basin is providing the following resources to the community for public review and comment regarding the draft EIR:

- A digital, searchable version of the draft EIR is available on the West Basin website at [www.westbasin.org/desal](http://www.westbasin.org/desal).
- Print copies of the draft EIR are available at the West Basin Municipal Water District Office (17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Carson, CA 90746), as well as several other locations throughout the service area. A complete list is available on the [Project website](#).
- Written public comment will also be accepted during the public meeting on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The key documents referenced in the draft EIR for the Ocean Water Desalination Project, which support the analyses, are included in the Appendices. West Basin has also posted its planning and research studies (including the Ocean Water Desalination Program Master Plan) on its website at <http://westbasindesal.org/research-and-planning.html>. Other referenced documents cited and listed in each section of the draft EIR may be accessed in-person at West Basin's headquarters in Carson, Calif.

Interested parties should send an email to [DesalEIR@westbasin.org](mailto:DesalEIR@westbasin.org) to request an appointment to review the documents. The email should include the section number (e.g. Section 5.3 - Biological Resources - Terrestrial) and the full citation (author, year published, title of the document) of the referenced documents to be reviewed. Please allow five calendar days to set an appointment so that the documents may be prepared for review.

#### **ATTEND THE UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE**

West Basin is hosting its second public meeting for community members to learn more about the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the potential ocean water desalination facility in El Segundo, Calif. and provide comment on the document. The open house is scheduled in the City of El Segundo, due to its proximity to the proposed project site, on the following date and time:

**Richmond Street Elementary School**

*Auditorium*

615 Richmond St., El Segundo, CA 90245

**Saturday, May 12, 2018**

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

#### **NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING PUBLIC REVIEW**

Following the close of the public review and comment period, West Basin will respond formally to all comments submitted in regards to the draft EIR. Once responses have been prepared and appropriate revisions are made, a final EIR and a Response-to-Comments document will be released. The West Basin Board of Directors will then schedule a public hearing to consider certifying the EIR based upon the final report's completeness.

Certification of the final EIR does not support or reject the proposed project; it is confirmation that the EIR informs the community and the Board of Directors of the potential environmental impacts that may be expected and has been prepared in compliance with CEQA. For additional questions regarding the draft EIR, please contact the West Basin at (310) 660-6232 or [DesalEIR@westbasin.org](mailto:DesalEIR@westbasin.org).

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#### **ABOUT WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water conservation, recycling and education. The District is implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop local, drought-proof water supplies. This includes water conservation, recycling, groundwater desalting and the exploration of ocean water desalination. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*