

DATE: June 5, 2006

TO: CITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE JOINT WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE PASADENA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council and the Governing Board of Education) approve implementation of the water education programs offered by Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and supplemented through Pasadena's Water and Power Department.

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) works closely with MWD to coordinate programs with the community that deal with water conservation, water quality, water rebates, and water education. PWP looks forward to establishing a working partnership between MWD and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD), to take advantage of some of the educational opportunities provided by MWD in regard to water awareness. PWP currently purchases nearly 60% of its water from MWD, and as a member agency, the City has access to the programs MWD offers for schools. Currently, there are two types of educational water programs that MWD offers for grades K-12 (through a joint partnership with a member agency); an online water education resource and an in class education program. Following is a brief description of each program:

Online Water Education Software

MWD provides a resource for students and teachers via their education website, <http://mwdh20.com/mwdh20/pages/education/education01.html>. The website offers curriculum for teachers, in the area of water works, water quality, water politics, the geography of water, water conservation, and other aspects of water. The website offers students resources through materials about the water system, a water science portion that explains key terms, quizzes for students, and quizzes for the general public. The website also offers a variety of other tools and materials for teachers to educate students on water items. In addition, PWP will offer support materials to the teachers and students that participate in this online program.

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In Class Education Program

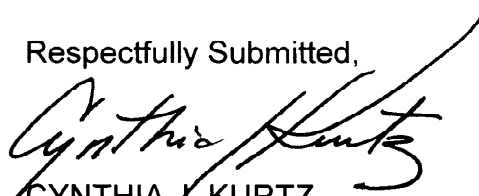
MWD offers in class educational training programs (related to water) for teachers and administrators to add to the school curriculum. MWD provides training, supplemental material, and gives class room presentations. The curricula teaches students about California's water supply and distribution system, water sources, water use, water conservation, water politics, etc. These services (which include training of teachers, supplemental materials, classroom presentations, and online access) are all free of charge to the school district. PWP will offer PUSD assistance in a variety of forms, which may include PWP staff presentations and additional educational materials related to water conservation, water quality and water supply.


In summary, the City of Pasadena, through its Water and Power Department, looks forward to working with PUSD in establishing a water education program to educate students and teachers about the importance of water, a precious resource. Through a community partnership and the involvement of teachers, our students will be better aware of the challenges facing our water supply. Because MWD offers educational resources from K-12 grade, the message of water conservation and importance of water will continually be embedded in the minds of our youth. The program is expected to target all of the PUSD students, with no fees associated with the educational materials and training. Some indirect costs may include the time for teachers to obtain training, and other miscellaneous expenses. PWP hopes to facilitate the process by providing assistance and working closely with PUSD and MWD on an ongoing basis. PWP will enhance this existing program by tailoring it to incorporate the program and incentives already offered by PWP. In addition, PWP will offset some of the incremental costs that PUSD may incur.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the water education program for PUSD would be limited to the costs associated with staff/teachers attending 1 – 2 days of off-site instructor training. The incremental cost (program enhancements, staff time, educational materials, etc.) to PWP for FY 2007 is budgeted under fund 402, at an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Respectfully Submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager


PERCY CLARK JR., Ph.D.
Superintendent