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Testimony  
Before the Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water and Power  
United States House of Representatives

Hearing on H.R. 31 (Issa)  
**The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Wastewater and Recycled Water Facilities Act of  
2007**  
May 24, 2007

## **H.R. 31**

### **The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Wastewater and Recycled Water Facilities Act of 2007**

Chairwoman Napolitano, Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Ron Young, and I serve as the General Manager of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District in Lake Elsinore, California. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Subcommittee this morning to talk about EVMWD's comprehensive plans for water recycling within two of the fastest growing communities within our very large service area within Western Riverside County, California.

I also thank our Congressman Darrell Issa for sponsoring H.R. 31, and neighboring Congressmembers Ken Calvert and Mary Bono for signing on as original cosponsors of this legislation of importance to our entire region. I will be reading from a written statement that is available to each of you on the Subcommittee, and will be pleased to entertain any questions you might have either during or at the conclusion of my presentation.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) is located in the southeastern portion of Riverside County and borders the eastern boundary of Orange County. EVMWD's jurisdiction includes the City of Lake Elsinore, the City of Canyon Lake, a portion of the City of Murrieta, unincorporated areas of the County of Riverside, and a portion of the Cleveland National Forest. EVMWD provides potable water service, wastewater treatment and disposal, and recycled water to customers within its jurisdiction. Currently, EVMWD has approximately 38,000 water service connections, many of which also include wastewater and agricultural connections. EVMWD is a sub-agency of the Western Municipal Water District, a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Water demand within EVMWD's service area has also been growing rapidly due to new development and population growth. EVMWD expects water demand to more than double by 2020. As a result, EVMWD seeks ways to use recycled water to offset limited sources of potable water supply. EVMWD has the opportunity to develop the Wildomar Recycled Water program and the Alberhill Wastewater Reclamation Facilities. These two projects will create approximately 4,500 acre feet a year in new water.

This new water supply is even more significant when we consider that the City of Lake Elsinore is the third fastest growing city in Riverside County and Riverside County is the second fastest growing county in the Nation.

## **WILDOMAR RECYCLED WATER PROJECT**

EVMWD proposes to implement a Master Plan for a recycled water system to serve its southern region. This Wildomar Recycled Water project is intended to ultimately deliver 2,429 acre-feet per year (AF/yr) of recycled water to 34 user sites. (see table 1) Potential users include schools, homeowners' associations, parks, a cemetery, a nursery, a church, and a stadium. The project would require construction of pipelines, pump stations, and reservoirs to distribute recycled water.

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) recently constructed the TVRWRF Effluent Disposal Pipeline. This pipeline conveys excess effluent from EMWD's wastewater facility in Temecula and RCWD's Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility (SRWRF) to EMWD's existing 54-inch Reach 4 pipeline, which will ultimately discharge effluent in the Temescal Wash, which is under the jurisdiction of Region 8, the Santa Ana RWQCB.

EVMWD has purchased the ability to use a portion of the capacity in the pipeline as part of a separate agreement with Eastern and Rancho involving wastewater treatment of a portion of EVMWD's service area. (see map) This agreement allots EVMWD up to 1.5 million gallons a day, or 1,680 acre feet per year of recycled water. EVMWD expects to wholesale purchase the remaining supply of recycled water from Eastern Municipal Water District.

This project is solely for water development. EVMWD will promote this project in the community through established outreach materials developed by the District.

The total project cost for the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities needed to establish recycled water distribution for the southern region of EVMWD's service area is estimated at \$19 million. The funding support for this project is needed to match the local and state funds that have been given to EVMWD to develop this new water supply.

EVMWD is looking for a twenty-five percent match from the federal government. This funding would be spread over four years and total \$8.5 million.

## **ALBERHILL RECYCLED WATER PROJECT**

EVMWD, with the assistance of a \$75k state grant, prepared a recycled water Facilities Planning Report (FPR) for EVMWD's Alberhill Service Area entitled The FPR Alberhill Service Area Recycled Water Master Plan. The planning study is focused on providing recycled water to potential customers within EVMWD's Alberhill Service Area. Within this service area there are several potential sources of recycled water, including EVMWD's proposed \$30 million Alberhill Wastewater Reclamation Facility, which will be implemented in three phases; 1, 2A, and 2B.

Phase 1 includes all existing customers including six developers within the proposed Alberhill Community Facilities District (CFD).

Phase 2A includes the future customer, Pacific Clay, which is a proposed development near the Alberhill CFD. The significant recycled water demand associated with this development will justify the capital costs incurred for the additional facilities.

Phase 2B includes future customer, the Village Development, which is not planned to be constructed until 2019.

EVMWD is currently completing the preliminary design for the Alberhill WRF. Our goal for completing the first phase of the Alberhill WRF construction is December 2009. The recent 2005 EVMWD Alberhill Water & Wastewater Facilities Phasing Plan indicates that the initial capacity for Alberhill WRF is 1.0mgd. The initial 1.0mgd plant will need to incorporate 0.5mgd incremental treatment trains to accommodate the uncertainties associated with planned developments. The ultimate capacity of Alberhill WRF is 5.4mgd.

EVMWD is looking for a twenty-five percent match from the federal government. This funding would be spread over eight years and total \$9.6 million

## **CONCLUSION**

In summary, both CALFED and the Colorado River 4.4 Plan the reuse of water is critical to maintaining water supply for the region. The CALFED framework agreement calls for 50,000 AF per year in new water recycling. The only way this kind of objective can be reached is if local agencies pursue comprehensive water recycling programs that supplement existing water supplies. This will allow all water users in the region to be sure of their future water supplies and will provide a path for water supply development that can be replicated.

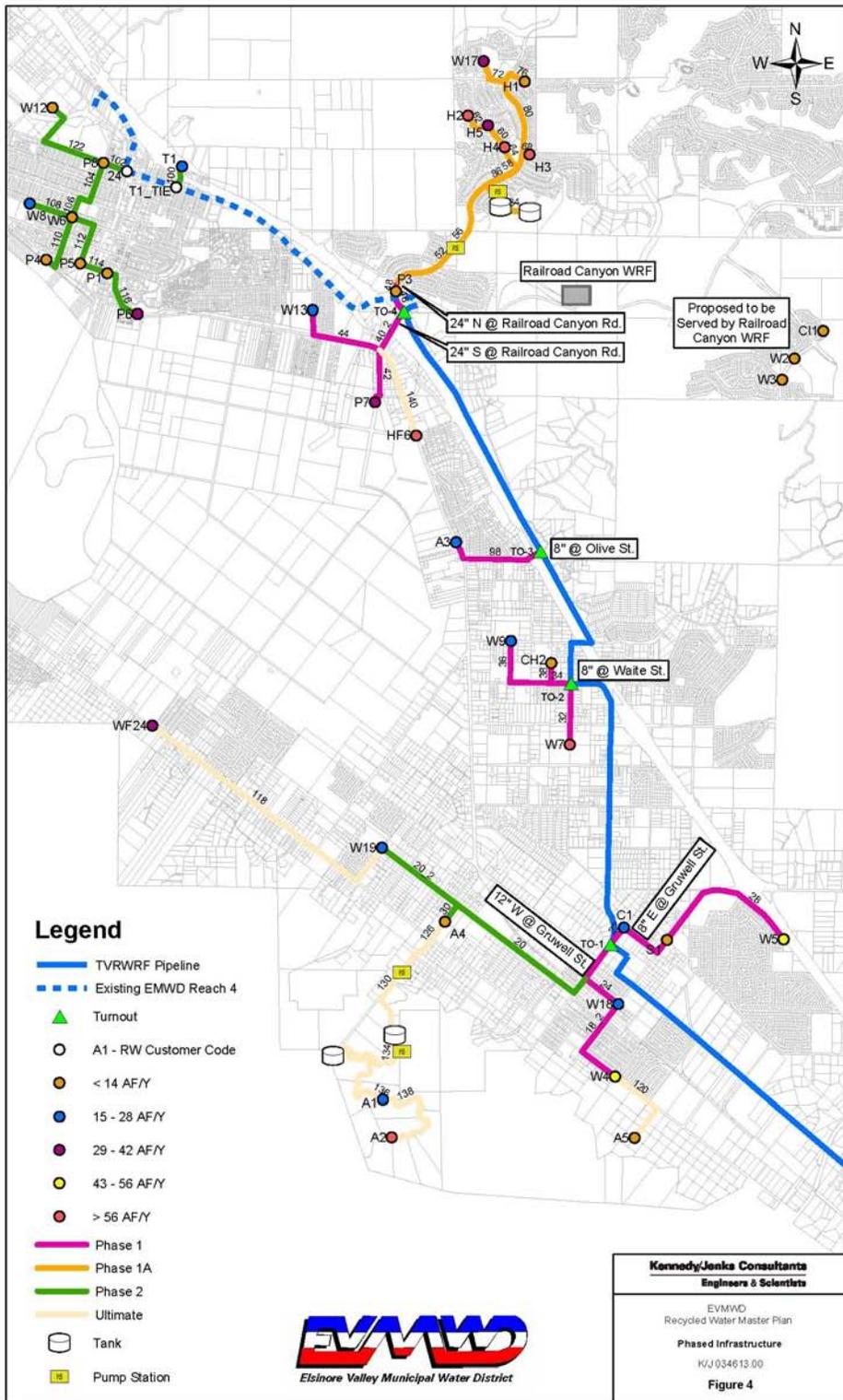
Every acre foot of recycled water that is generated saves water agencies an acre foot of expensive imported water. These projects are estimated to save EVMWD \$2.6 million a year in imported water costs.

We have seen a dramatic increase in the cost of building materials and fuel, which has resulted in a slight increase in our funding request to Congress. When the projects were originally conceived it was estimated that a federal funding match of \$12.5 million would be sufficient. However, after adjusting our calculations to accommodate these increases, we estimate our federal funding request to be approximately \$18.1 million.

The need for projects that provide additional recycled water have become particularly important due to dwindling imported water supplies. In addition, the economics of these types of projects are less than half the cost of future imported water costs.

I urge your speedy favorable action on HR 31 so final planning and design can begin on this project that is so vital to the well being of our District and the region.

# WILDOMAR RECYCLED WATER PROJECT



# ALBERHILL RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

