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To: "Comer Tuck" <Comer.Tuck@twdb.state.tx.us>, "C.E. Williams" <cwilliams8@...>
Date: 11/15/2007 9:11 AM
Subject: Re: Work Group # 5 Question

Attachments: TechH2O Photo.jpg;
Attachments: Newspaper Article 2007.pdf;
Attachments: EnvironmentalSummitPressRelease.pdf

CC: "Bill Mullican" <Bill.Mullican@twdb.state.tx.us>, "Carla Daws" <Carla.Da...

The following is a summary of what Ken Petersen has found for us and additional information I have been able to put together regarding the El Paso TechH2O training center. Please look at the five items below. I would appreciate any comments you may have before our Friday meeting.

1. As the HB 4 states, the purpose of this section of the bill is the for the formation of certified training facilities, entities or programs to train water utility staff about water conservation.
2. Those entities with such a program would receive preference in receiving financial assistance.
3. The organ of this is El Paso. They have established an "Carlos M. Ramirez TechH2O " for water conservation training for citizens, policy makers, and other utilities, etc. as part of the new Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. Please see the attached material and the information below.
4. As discussed in our teleconference call last month, there are three things for our committee to decide.
 - a. Are certified training centers at various locations in Texas needed?
 - b. Since the Carlos M. Ramirez TechH2O training center already exists, should this be named as a certified facility.
 - c. If the answer to a. is yes, do cities or utilities in which such centers reside receive consideration from the State when seeking funding (loans and grants)
5. See the information from Ken Petersen at the bottom of this e-mail.

I hope to see all of you Tomorrow.

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Information on the El Paso training center from the web.

El Paso on Short List for Conservation Training
Sometime in 2008, people from throughout the state of Texas might find themselves coming to El Paso to learn the fundamentals of developing and implementing a water conservation program. Funding for the program was authorized during the 2007 State Legislative Session.

Robert Puente, who chaired the House Natural Resources Committee, wants all Texas water utilities and local governments to establish water conservation plans, according to Snapper Carr of HillCo Partners, the firm of lobbyists retained by the Public Service Board.

"They will be minimal compared to what the PSB has already done in its previous planning," says Carr. "But they have to formulate this, and there needs to be best practices in entities that can help with that formulation."

Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 4 establish a program that permits the Water Development Board to designate certified training centers, and those training centers will have opportunities to for greater funding through the agency's grants and loans. Priority will be given to entities that have a demonstrated record of significant water conservation savings.

"I think it's tailor-made for the types of programs that you are doing at the TechH2O Center," says Carr.

HillCo's Dan Pearson said legislators know water conservation must be a part of the strategy for meeting the state's future water demands. "They know that there is no better track record than what you have created here," he says. "I really think the sky is the limit for what the PSB and the water utility can accomplish through your TechH2O Center."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2007

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Annual Research Conference to Include Tour of World's Largest
Inland Desalination Plant in El Paso, Texas

ALEXANDRIA, VA - The WateReuse Foundation announced today that attendees of the 11th Annual Water Reuse Research Conference will be among the first to see the new El Paso/Fort Bliss Desalination Plant and TechH2O Center. The conference, which will be held June 4-5 at the El Paso Marriott in El Paso, TX, will conclude with hard hat tours of the new facilities on June 5 at 4:30 p.m.

El Paso will soon be the site of the world's largest inland desalination plant. A joint project of El Paso Water Utilities and Ft. Bliss, El Paso's desalination facilities will produce 27.5 million gallons of fresh water daily (MGD) making it a critical component of the region's water portfolio. Using a previously unusable brackish groundwater supply, the El Paso/Ft. Bliss facilities are creating a new supply of water - water from water.

The 30,450 square foot TechH2O Center is being built adjacent to the El

Paso/Fort Bliss Desalination Plant. The Center's focus is on the many facets of water management with sixteen interactive exhibit areas. These exhibits were designed with the goal of informing and involving the public - those most affected by water management.

The Foundation's Research Conference provides an opportunity for the water reuse and desalination communities to hear and see presentations by researchers on the latest results of ongoing research. The conference provides a forum for water reuse and desalination research professionals to interact, network, and discuss current and future research needs and trends. The conference is cosponsored by the Awwa Research Foundation (AwwaRF) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The conference will feature sessions on such stimulating and diverse topics as micro constituents of concern, treatment technologies, advanced oxidation processes, innovative technologies, health effects and risk assessments, and concentrate management. Several sessions will provide a preview of the results from Foundation research projects. There will also be presentations on research sponsored by AwwaRF and EPA.

For more information on the conference program or conference registration, [click here](#).

TechH2O, A Water Resource Learning Center Sharing Information and Encouraging Innovation

The 30,450 square foot TechH2O Center is adjacent to the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant. The Center's focus is on the many facets of water management with sixteen interactive exhibit areas. These exhibits were designed with the goal of informing and involving the public - those most affected by water management.

But TechH2O is more than exhibits. It is a component of El Paso's water resources program. The Center will serve educators, students, policy makers and the public by providing meeting places and resources to promote the understanding and study of water and water issues. It will include a 250-seat auditorium, a training center, interactive exhibits, and display and demonstration projects. These facilities make TechH2O ideal for regional, national and international symposiums and conferences.

Here stakeholders will gain an understanding of total water management in the desert. Exhibits on conservation, reclamation and alternative water resources will encourage study and the development of new ideas.

TechH2O Center exhibits:

- a.. The Chihuahuan Desert, Wildlife and Flora
- b.. The Uniqueness of the Chihuahuan Desert
- c.. Regional Map Center
- d.. Water Management Overview
- e.. Ground Water
- f.. The Water House
- g.. Xeriscaping
- h.. The Culture of Water

- i.. Desalination
- j.. Surface Water
- k.. Reclaimed Water
- l.. Demand Management

The City of El Paso is at the center of a region that shares both surface and groundwater sources. El Paso, Ciudad Juárez and Las Cruces, N.M. are home to nearly two million people. Because it is impossible to deal with water management in one city without involving the others, Tech2O will provide education and resources to the water users and providers of the entire region.

Total water management is the recognition that water is a limited resource. Understanding this , El Paso Water Utilities began formal water conservation education in the late - 1980s. As a result, El Pasoans lead the state in an understanding of water issues. In a region where the annual rainfall is only 8 inches, this understanding is crucial. Consumers who understand where their water comes from and how it gets to the tap are more cautious in their use. Tech2O will further this goal.

The EPWU staff is also working closely with the school districts of the region to develop curriculum based on the science lessons of Tech2O exhibits. El Paso Water Utilities has also joined in a partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso, New Mexico State University, Texas A&M, Ft. Bliss, the City of Alamogordo and others in the joint use of the facilities for research, training and technology transfer. This partnership is known as CHIWAWA (Consortium for High Tech Investigations of Water and Wastewater). This facility will help facilitate this endeavor. EPWU will also work with other local, state and federal agencies in the use of the Center.

EPWU Facilities to Be Named for Hutchison, Ramirez
NEWS RELEASE
Contact: Hector Gonzalez, Government Affairs and Communications Manager
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Date: February 13, 2007

(El Paso) At its Feb. 14 meeting, the Public Service Board will adopt resolutions naming two facilities currently under construction in honor of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and the Honorable Carlos M. Ramirez, former El Paso mayor and commissioner of the U.S. Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC).

The desalination plant and facilities will be named the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant in honor of the senator, who was instrumental in their planning, design and construction.

"Senator Hutchison has been supportive of El Paso's water issues and projects over the years," said EPWU General Manager Ed Archuleta. "The desalination plant is but one project she has advocated for. Naming the plant after the senator is a tribute to her support."

The plant will produce 27.5 million gallons per day of potable water for

residents of Northeast and East El Paso and Fort Bliss. This will increase fresh water production for El Paso by 25 percent, based on current demand. The project is 80 percent complete and will begin operating in early June.

The adjacent learning center will be named the Carlos M. Ramirez Tech2O Water Resource Learning Center in honor of the former mayor and IBWC commissioner. The 30,450-square-foot facility will contain interactive displays, exhibits and demonstration projects that focus on water management, a 250-seat auditorium suitable for hosting forums and conferences and a large classroom-style meeting room. Tech2O is designed to facilitate study, discussion and research.

"Mayor Ramirez had a vision of El Paso being a model of conservation and technology. This center is a testimony to that vision," said Mayor John Cook.

An official dedication for both facilities will be scheduled for late summer.

----- Original Message -----

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Sent: Friday, November 02, 2007 12:30 PM
Subject: Work Group # 5 Question

From Ken Petersen:

I was able to visit with Hope Wells yesterday evening over the questions Group V raised concerning the intent behind Special Task 1.

Hope advises that this was included at the request of the City of El Paso. She is unclear as to exactly what was prompting this request, but thinks it may have had something to do with a training center El Paso is sponsoring. She believes that El Paso may have intended that a certification be included in the legislation to give them a leg up on any funding from the TWDB if the appropriations process allowed such. The task to the Council is an alternative to providing certification for El Paso or, for that matter, any other entity.

Hope agrees that there is absolutely no intent to create a conservationist certification, analogous to engineers, lawyers, and water operators.

Her recommendation is that we treat this task at face value, namely, to

evaluate whether there should be a certification, if so, should it be by the Board, and if so, what should be the parameters of that certification. Having the board promulgate standards is certainly one consideration. Hope also confirms that there is no intent that the Council's review have any given outcome. And that it is not the intent of HB 4 that this certification be established in any way that excludes any person, institution or entity