Western’s Plan to Form Assessment District Paves Way for New Sewer Service Along Van Buren Boulevard

RIVERSIDE, CA; Sept. 1, 2011 – In a continuing effort to support local businesses with improved water and wastewater infrastructure, Western Municipal Water District plans to form an assessment district to finance the construction of a sewer collection system along Van Buren Boulevard. The new sewer system will allow businesses along the Van Buren Boulevard corridor from Gamble Avenue past Washington Street to discontinue onsite septic system use and connect with Western’s existing wastewater collection service.

“Western knows that robust infrastructure encourages business success,” said John V. Rossi, general manager of Western. “The Van Buren Sewer Project will create a better environment for businesses along this corridor.”

On Aug. 10, Western’s Board of Directors adopted a Resolution of Intention to form a new assessment district, which was first proposed in the spring of 2010. At a meeting of impacted property owners this past May, Western staff presented a summary of the engineer’s report, which included the project’s scope, cost and schedule. Positive response encouraged the Board to proceed.

Ballots have been mailed to all 56 property owners that would benefit from the project. A public hearing set for Oct. 5 during Western’s regularly scheduled Board Meeting will reveal the results of the vote and serve as a forum for public comments. If property owners support formation of the district, it will be formed this fall. System design would take place from January 2012 through May 2012, with the construction phase lasting from July 2012 to March 2013.

The project will consist of gravity sewer pipelines along Van Buren Boulevard from Gamble Avenue to King Avenue, as well as along Washington Street stretching 600 feet north and 320 feet south of Van Buren. A new lift station would be constructed on the southwest corner of Van Buren and Washington, and an existing lift station would be upgraded to handle increased flows.

“Forming this assessment district, along with the sale of bonds, will be critical to financing this project responsibly and fairly,” said Brenda Dennstedt, president of Western’s Board of Directors. “It’s this type of sound, fiscally prudent project that enables Western to partner with local stakeholders to construct vital infrastructure.”

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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