CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 4, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Shana Epstein, Environmental Utilities Manager

Subject: Groundwater Management Plan Technical Committee Appointments

Attachments: 1. None

INTRODUCTION

The City has extended for the second time the recruitment to fill one technical position and one community member position to the Groundwater Management Plan Technical Committee. Two existing members of the Committee have re-applied and one new applicant has applied. Common practice is to not close the recruitment until there are three new applicants. Staff is requesting the two members of the Committee whose terms have expired be reappointed for at least a year until more applicants become interested.

DISCUSSION

In preparation to resume extracting groundwater from the Hollywood Basin, the Groundwater Management Plan Technical Committee was created in 1999. Gloria Seiff, Chair and community member, and Melvin Blevins, Vice Chair and technical member, have been on the Committee since its inception. The Committee is composed of two community members and three technical members. The technical members are defined as to be professionals in groundwater such as a hydrologist, civil engineer, geologist or other professions with a groundwater expertise.

Both Chair Seiff and Vice Chair Blevins are willing and submitted applications to stay on the Committee. Chair Seiff has a long history of being involved with water issues that pertain to the City. Vice Chair Blevins has a long career in groundwater. As a young engineer at Los Angeles Department of Water and Power he completed an inventory of the City of Beverly Hills deep wells when the City was considering abandoning them. Later, Mr. Blevins became the watermaster of San Fernando Valley Basin. In this role he had to oversee the extraction of water in this basin. In addition, Mr. Blevins has taught at UCLA and USC on the subject of groundwater. Both make valuable contributions to this committee that requires a certain amount of devotion to a very specific topic – the quality and quantity of groundwater from the Hollywood Basin.

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Staff is requesting that Chair Seiff and Vice Chair Blevins be reappointed for at least a year, while the City searches for at least two more additional applicants. Currently, there is only one applicant besides Chair Seiff and Vice Chair Blevins for two positions – one community member and one technical.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the City Council request a resolution to extend the terms of these two committee members for at least one year.

David Gustavson
Approved By