SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-C**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: September 1, 2011

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION RE 2010 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE PROGRESS

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Discussion regarding progress on the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) progress, focusing on water shortage contingency planning.

FISCAL IMPACT: none

DISCUSSION:

Sweetwater Springs Water District is tasked with updating its UWMP for the 2010 cycle. At the August meeting staff discussed population and water supply projections. We had stated at the meeting that we would have a draft plan available for this meeting. Because of vacations, and the complexity of meeting the UWMP guidelines, and in the interest of providing a readable document with minimal mistakes, the presentation of the draft UWMP has been delayed until the October meeting.

Besides water supply projections, the UWMP also emphasizes water shortage contingency planning. Water shortage contingency planning looks at two kinds of scenarios – drought and other shorter duration (in event time) disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

Our prior UWMP's took the position that the District is fairly immune to drought, and we see nothing to change that position. Our wells pump from an aquifer that is directly recharged from the Russian River and because of water rights requirements on the River, including minimum flows, of Decision 1610 and any successor, it is unlikely that the River will ever be dry even in the most severe drought. Since our production wells are finished well below the river bottom, water should always be available. It is likely that in the event of a long drought there will be a regional requirement to reduce water production and the District will need to participate in that reduction.

It is also my belief that the Russian River is very susceptible to significant release reductions from Lake Mendocino should a severe drought occur before D 1610 gets changed to reflect the reduced diversions from the Eel River. And based on the lack of information coming from the Sonoma County Water Agency and lack of any request for participation from downstream interests in the development of new Russian River flow requirements, we have no assurance or information that indicates that their proposed

changes will adequately address the reduced Eel River diversions and protect water levels in our part of the River. We are currently more susceptible to drought than generally believed, but District supplies should still handle any foreseeable drought scenario.

In the drought planning element of the UWMP I will indicate that the District may have some kind of reduction as part of the regional conservation effort, but our supplies should not be affected in the sense that the drought conditions will not reduce the District's physical ability to pump water.

The UWMP guidelines include an optional section on climate change and the most worrisome aspect of climate change in a water supply planning document is the increased possibility of drought. With the resources we have available to us and the uncertainty involved in any discussion of climate change along a coast line (or anywhere else for that matter), we will not be addressing climate change in the 2010 UWMP.

With respect to other disasters, such as earthquakes or floods, these are real emergency situation for which the District needs to be prepared. The District has an Emergency Preparedness Response and Recovery Plan (EPRRP) which we update on an annual basis, and more often if needed. Our primary focus with the EPRRP is flooding because that has such a frequent and predictable occurrence possibility, but it provides a disaster response approach for all disasters of that are more sudden event based (compared to a drought). The UWMP section on water shortage contingency planning will be conformed to the EPRRP as that is a living, needed document for the District.