SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

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

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: November 6, 2014

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON POSSIBLE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) WATER RATE ACCOMODATIONS

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive a presentation by Staff on progress on looking at accommodations for medically disabled District customer water rates .

FISCAL IMPACT: none

DISCUSSION:

The Board has heard a presentation by Mr. Richard Skaff requesting that the Board have water rates that accommodate medically disabled District customers who need greater amounts of water because of their medical disability. At the last meeting the Board received a presentation by District legal counsel Robin Donoghue who stated her opinion that the Board has no responsibility under Federal law to provide for such rates. The Board directed General Manager Steve Mack to meet with Mr. Skaff and Director Gaylord Schaap to discuss this matter to see if some accommodation might be possible.

On October 23, that meeting was held. In the discussion that was held, the District General Manager expressed the opinion that there would likely be few customers who would qualify for such a program and that it could be handled better on a case-by-case basis rather than a “one size fits all” tier 1 increase like Marin Municipal Water District. Some issues:

- The MMWD program requires that a doctor certify the water need. Staff questions the qualifications of a doctor to prescribe water needs amounts and also the care with which this responsibility would be taken. Staff will call Russian River Health Center to discuss this.
- More research is needed on how the program works at MMWD – staff agreed to call MMWD to query this.
- How would this work at SSWD? The GM needs to talk more with office staff on this.

Some work needs to be done before bringing back a proposal to the Board. I will try to do this work prior to the December meeting.