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DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

WATER DIVISION

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

1391-35TH AVENUE
SACRAMENTO, CA
95822-2911

916-449-5271

March 21, 1989

Joint Budget and Finance/
Transportation and Community Development Committees
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: RICE HERBICIDE UPDATE

SUMMARY

This report presents an update to the Joint Committees with regard to the 1989 Rice Herbicide Program. Last year's Department of Food and Agriculture's program maintained rice herbicide at the level of 1987. This year's program will produce approximately the same results as 1987-1988 and offer no change or improvement over 1987-1988.

BACKGROUND

Since 1984, the State of California's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has requested the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) to prepare a report on its continuing program to reduce the movement of rice herbicide residues into the Sacramento River. On February 24, 1989, at a meeting of the Regional Water Quality Control the DFA reviewed the results of the 1988 program and formally presented its proposed plan for 1989.

In 1988, concentrations of Ordram, Bolero, and Basagran at the City's water treatment plant intake were well below the Department of Health Service's action levels.

(See Exhibit A).

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The 1989 Program. The 1989 program will be essentially the same plan adopted last year. Both the Ordram and Basagran programs will remain unchanged. The restrictions on Bolero use will remain the same but the sales cap could increase if Sacramento River flows (as measured at I Street) exceed 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This year, DFA would allow sales of Bolero on an additional 40,000 acres if flows will exceed 15,000 cfs.

A New Herbicide. The Department of Food and Agriculture indicated that they expect herbicide discharges to the Sacramento River will be reduced as a result of the introduction of a new herbicide product, Londax produced by DuPont Chemical.

Londax (or bensulfuron methyl) is a herbicide with a high degree of activity against broadleaf weeds and will compete for market shared by Bentazon and MCPA, the other broadleaf herbicides. Unlike these other herbicides, which are applied at the rate of 1 lb. per acre, or Ordram or Bolero which are applied at 4 lb. per acre, Londax is applied at 1 oz. per acre. Londax is currently being evaluated for registration by DFA.

City Monitoring. Staff continues to attend rice herbicide technical meetings and once again will participate in the 1989 water quality monitoring program with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and DFA. Staff is currently evaluating analytical methods in order to be able to test for Londax later this year.

FINANCIAL

There is no financial impact.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no policy considerations addressed in this report.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS

No impact.

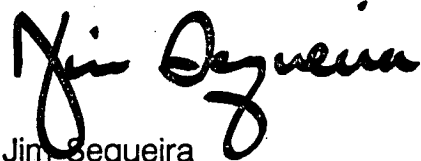
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RECOMMENDATION

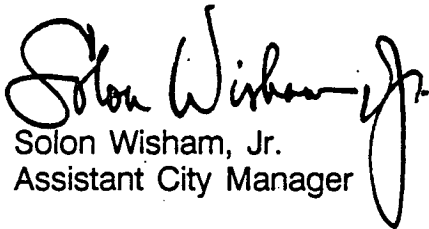
This report is for information only.

Respectfully submitted,



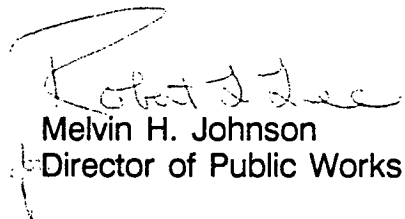
Jim Sequeira
Water Division Manager

APPROVED FOR COMMITTEE INFORMATION:



Solon Wisham, Jr.
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Melvin H. Johnson
Director of Public Works

All Districts
March 21, 1989

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PEAK CONCENTRATIONS AT WATER INTAKE FOR ORDRAM AND BOLERO

