



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
GENERAL MANAGER'S DIVISION

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Brown, Cunningham, Cassidy, Ernst, and Farmer
FROM: Randy Berggren
DATE: January 12, 2010
SUBJECT: Consent Calendar Approval – Board Donation for Disaster Relief to America Samoa

About 8 weeks ago I authorized sending two of our line workers to the American Samoa Islands to help with disaster cleanup after a tsunami hit them following a nearby earthquake. You may recall there was an article in the RG highlighting our commitment to help along with Lane Electric and Emerald PUD who also sent line workers for disaster assistance.

Subsequent to the decision a question was raised about whether the commitment represented a donation since we did not receive or expect to receive reimbursement for the wages and travel costs of the employees to help the island rebuild its power system and restore reliable service. The total commitment was approximately \$ 27,500 for wages and travel. I did not originally think of this as a donation although I could certainly argue that view in a more conservative perspective. I consulted with Win Calkins as well to get his view. He also indicated that it was questionable as to whether this would be considered a donation since we do get valuable experience for our employees dealing with disaster situations in addition to helping the public entity with service restoration as we often do with other utilities. He likened it to providing a staff person to do training for other organizations we support/belong to who get valuable leadership experience while providing the training and his view that this would not typically be considered a donation subject to the Board's policy.

Win also felt that if we wanted to take a most conservative view of this expense as a donation subject to the board's donation policy it would be appropriate for the board to approve it even though the disaster assistance has already been provided. I consulted with President Brown and Vice President Cunningham on their view and after discussing it decided that it would be appropriate to take the conservative view and request board approval of the disaster support just to avoid any question of appropriate procedures having been followed.

I therefore request approval under the board's donation policy of an in kind donation of labor and related travel expense for two journey line workers to the American Samoa utility to provide disaster relief assistance in the amount of \$ 27,500. If you have additional questions let me know.

Thanks, Randy.