



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Water Agency
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: October 7, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Streamgaging Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the cooperative streamgaging program from November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009 in the amount of \$576,550 in which \$421,900 to be funded by the County Water Agency.

Summary Text:

This Joint Funding Agreement between the Water Agency and the USGS will provide for a cooperative and cost sharing water resources data collecting program in Santa Barbara County. The program consists of a cooperative streamgaging program for all three agencies as well as groundwater monitoring and surface water quality monitoring for the Water Agency. The cooperative streamgaging program provides for the measurement and recording of flows in strategic locations of selected creeks and rivers. The data collected is used for facilities design, flood warning, climate studies, and other purposes. This year the data collected and accessed as part of this agreement will be critical in responding to potential flood threats resulting from the Zaca and Gap Fires. The program is outlined in Attachment A and includes federal cost sharing and covers stations located throughout the County.

The full range monitoring that is provided by this program is used for the design of properly sized channels, storm drains, retardation basins, and delineation of flood hazard areas. Additionally, stream flow data continues to be very valuable for water supply and flood frequency studies for flood warning system simulation and operations. Some of the gages monitor downstream flow from reservoir releases as a basis for water rights accounting.

The gages also can be monitored in real time on the internet. The USGS produces an annual report for both surface and ground-water data collected. The data are used to evaluate changes in water supply due to drought and wet cycles, monitor changes in ground water quality and guide development of water management decisions.

Background:

Santa Barbara County has had a cooperative data collection program with the United States Geological Survey for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the Flood Control District allows understanding of complex local hydrological systems in our highly variable climate. The USGS has the personnel, equipment and credibility to gather useful data. Furthermore the USGS has rigorous quality assurance and publicly accessible data distribution. The program directly benefits a wide range of local agencies and directly and indirectly the general public.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 154,650.00		
Water Agency Funds	\$ 421,900.00		
Other:			
Total	\$ 576,550.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

This program was included in the 2008-09 Adopted Budget under the Water Agency cost center in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as identified on page D-336 in the budget book.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return all four originals of the agreement along with a copy of the minute order to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez. After the agreement has been executed by the USGS, the District will return a fully executed original to the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations (4 originals)
Exhibit A – Program Scope

Authored by: Matt Naftaly, Interim Water Agency Manager, 568-3542