



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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** PW/Flood Control  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** September 16, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**FROM:** Department Director: Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director  
Contact: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Flood Control

**SUBJECT:** **Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program, All Supervisorial Districts**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey to continue the countywide cooperative Stream Gauging Program from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, in the amount of \$435,075, of which \$332,455 will be funded by the Flood Control District; and
- b) Find that the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15306, basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resources evaluation activities; and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to approve and authorize this annual countywide Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide for continuation of the cooperative water resources data-collecting program in Santa Barbara County.

The program consists of stream gauge measurements and monitoring and provides for the collection of flow data in strategic locations of selected creeks and rivers. The data collected is used for a variety of purposes, including facility design, flood warning, and water supply.

The USGS provides the County access to all the data collected, with pertinent data made available in real time via the internet. The stream gauges included in the program are listed in the attachment of the JFA.

The term of this annual JFA is from October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

**Background:**

The Flood Control District (District) has had a cooperative water resources data collection program with the USGS for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the District, allows for the understanding of complex local hydrological systems in our highly variable climate. The USGS has personnel, equipment, technical expertise, and credibility to collect quality data. In addition, the USGS has rigorous quality assurance and a publicly accessible data distribution system. The program directly benefits a wide range of local agencies as well as the public.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>FY 2025/26 One Time project Costs</b>	<b>Total Project Costs</b>
Federal USGS	\$ 102,620	\$ 102,620
Flood Control District Funds	\$ 332,455	\$ 332,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 435,075</b>	<b>\$ 435,075</b>

Narrative:

The costs associated with this program are included in the adopted FY 2025-26 budget under the Flood Control District of the Public Works Department reflected on page D-324 in the budget book. The Flood Control District is funding \$332,455 (76%), while the USGS is funding \$102,620 (24%) over the agreement term.

Funds for this agreement will be paid from CC-54410, FD-2400, PG-0543006, SC-7460.  
No General Fund monies will be utilized for this agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption and email to Christina Lopez @ [clopez@countyofsb.org](mailto:clopez@countyofsb.org) a copy of the signed JFA signature page and minute order.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A –** Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations with the USGS  
includes contract summary

**Attachment B –** CEQA NOE

**Contact Information:**

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