



**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: Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 6/19/2007
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Board of Directors, Water Agency
Board of Directors, Laguna County Sanitation District

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

SUBJECT: Approval of the Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, All Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

1. File the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, (POST); and
2. Adopt the attached resolution approving the Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Summary:

Voters approved Proposition 50 in 2002 to provide funding for a wide range of water supply, water treatment and habitat protection projects. Guidelines promulgated by the State require preparation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). On September 12, 2006, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with 28 local agencies and interests to prepare an IRWMP for the Santa Barbara County-wide area with funds contributed by all signatories.

The contractor and the Cooperating Partners have now finished preparing the IRWM Plan. In order to be a basis for Prop 50 funding, the IRWM Plan needs to be adopted at a regional level and by any entities seeking funding. Therefore the Board is asked to approve the IRWM Plan both as a regional entity and because County agencies have proposed projects.

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The Proposition 50 “step 1” grant application is due August 1, 2007. The County staff and the Cooperating partners have begun developing the application.

Background:

Development of an IRWMP is a prerequisite for seeking Prop 50 funds, pursuant to guidelines issued jointly by California DWR and SWRCB. Likewise, an IRWMP is specifically identified in Prop 84 language as a requirement for obtaining those future funds.

On September 12, 2006, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chair to sign an MOU with 28 other agencies (cities, special districts, water companies, and joint powers entities) in Santa Barbara County to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) pursuant to the State’s Proposition 50 Guidelines. Collectively, the 29 agencies were identified in the MOU as the “IRWMP Cooperating Partners”.

The Santa Barbara County Water Agency coordinated the effort to prepare the IRWMP and the initial “step 1” grant application. Various County departments, including Parks Department, Laguna Sanitation, and Flood Control District participated directly as well. As authorized by the Board in September 2006, the Water Agency retained CH2MHill as a technical consultant for IRWMP development. The Water Agency and Cooperating Partners have held 12 open noticed meetings and 8 public workshops to develop the IRWMP Plan. Agendas, meeting minutes and interim work products have been posted on the web (<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/irwmp.htm>).

A public review draft IRWMP was released on March 9, 2007. Copies were broadly distributed, placed in all County libraries, posted on a PWD website (www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/IRWMP), and made available at other locations around the County. The IRWMP was discussed with the County Agricultural Advisory Committee at four of their meetings. The Plan has been completed and was available to the public as of May 21. It was reviewed by the Planning Commission in their hearing of May 23.

The IRWMP Plan is brought to the Board of Supervisors and the Boards of all 28 other agencies/districts for approval. If the Plan is approved by majority of these entities (particularly those who wish to seek funding for their projects), the agencies partnering on the IRWMP will apply for the second round of Proposition 50 grants. The initial submittal date for the second funding cycle is August 1, 2007. Staff and representatives of the cooperating partners have a strategy to prepare the initial “Step 1” (of 2) application. Representatives of the Cooperating Partners have agreed to contribute up to \$60,000 for the cost of preparing the Step 1 submittal.

At the same time staff is working with the cooperating partners to provide comments to State agencies regarding guidelines for Proposition 84 grants. Voters approved Proposition 84 in November 2006 with similar requirements for IRWMP Plans but more specific categories for funding and stipulated geographic areas. Santa Barbara County is part of the “Central Coast Planning Region” along with the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Santa Cruz (and small parts of Santa Clara and San Benito). Coordination among these Counties and other entities has begun to provide regional comments on proposed Proposition 84 guidelines that are consistent with local agency comments and which maintain as much local discretion as possible over priorities for grant fund allocation.

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Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost FY07-08</u>
General Fund			
County Water Agency	\$ 203,495.50		
Grant reimbursement			
Fees			
Partners MOU	\$ 120,469.00		
Total	\$ 323,964.50	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

A budget revision to allocate Water Agency funds from designations and to accept unanticipated revenue from the Cooperating Partners for this project was approved at the Board on September 12, 2006 to pay for the plan. The \$323,964.50 is the total cost of developing the plan (CH2MHILL contract) and which also includes project management (Dudek contract) costs for the project.

Additional work to prepare Step 1 of the grant application process is anticipated to begin this fiscal year and will continue into next fiscal year. An amendment to the CH2MHILL contract is coming to the Board for approval for this work. A budget revision will be processed after July 1 for these costs. Step 2 of the grant application process will also begin next year, which will be funded by the recipients of any grant funds.

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE), and
2. send a copy of the resolution, stamped NOE, and minute order approving the IRWM Plan to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

CEQA Notice of Exemption
Resolution Adopting the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP
Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Authored by: Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542

cc: