



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: November 15, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

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

SUBJECT: San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study, Third, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Joint Funding Agreement #15WSCA600081610.A2 with the United States Geological Survey increasing the amount by \$325,538 to a not to exceed amount of \$1,350,864 (in which \$1,142,953 will be funded by the County Water Agency and \$207,911 will be funded by the United States Geological Survey) to continue a comprehensive study of the San Antonio Groundwater Basin in order to assess current and future water availability;
- b) Approve Budget Revision Request (BJE No. 0004810) to release \$645,622 from fund balance to increase appropriations for professional services for the San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study (4/5 vote required); and
- c) Determine that the amendment to the agreement for San Antonio Groundwater Study is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act guidelines, Section 15262; Feasibility and Planning Studies and Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, as previously approved by the Board on November 4, 2014
<https://santabarbara.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1940549&GUID=F61F7286-71F1-431B-8A55-561FDD88ADAA>.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study and to approve a Budget Revision Request (BRR).

The San Antonio Groundwater Basin serves as the sole source of water to meet the agricultural and municipal needs of the greater Los Alamos Valley. The basin also augments State Water as part of Vandenberg Air Force Base's (VAFB) water supply. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the groundwater basin as medium priority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA legislation requires groundwater basin management in three (3) of the County's groundwater basins, including the San Antonio Basin. The Water Agency has elected to conduct this study in cooperation with the USGS as they have the most expertise and highest level of credibility in water resources science investigations. VAFB is also partnering in this study.

Study Update

The study consists of five main tasks which include: (1) data compilation, (2) new data acquisition, including an assessment of water quality and groundwater/surface water interactions, (3) model development, (4) analysis of water availability, and (5) report preparation. Work has commenced on tasks 1, 2, 3, and 5 and work to date includes the following:

- 1) Existing climate, land-use, geologic, water-quality, and geodetic data have been compiled and assembled into a Geographic Information System (GIS) (Task 1).
- 2) Existing water-quality data have been compiled (Task 1).
- 3) A previously operated gage at San Antonio Creek near Casmalia (11136100) has been reinstalled and is currently operating during the study (Task 2).
- 4) A new stream gage on Harris Creek has been sited and will be installed pending permit approval from CalTrans (Task 2).
- 5) Multiple-well site 16C1-4 has been instrumented with pressure transducers and is transmitting water level data in real time (Task 2).
- 6) Three of eight shallow monitoring wells and two of two deep multiple-well monitoring sites have been installed. The remaining shallow monitoring wells have been sited and permits obtained. Installation of the remaining shallow monitoring wells is tentatively scheduled for November, 2016 (Task 2).
- 7) 25 stream-bed electrical resistance sensors and three temperature sensor rods have been deployed and are currently monitoring stream flow and duration (Task 2).
- 8) Quarterly measurements of wells that are part of the existing groundwater-level monitoring network will continue (Task 2).

- 9) Ten additional wells have been canvassed and added to the quarterly groundwater-level monitoring network (Task 2).
- 10) Construction of the 3-dimensional geohydrologic framework for the groundwater model has commenced (Task 3).

This project is being conducted over a six-year period in order to allow adequate time to collect and analyze the necessary data. Along with periodic updates to stakeholders and the Board of Directors, a final report will be published. The USGS has agreed to cost share for some elements of the project. Total cost to the Water Agency over the study period is estimated to be \$1,656,845.

Amendment 2 to the Joint Funding Agreement provides for the completion of the installation of two multiple well monitoring sites, auger drilling of eight shallow wells, instrumentation for continuous water level recorders, completion of differential global positioning system surveys for the groundwater network, and the continued monitoring of wells and instrumentation. The scope and detail of this project is reviewed annually during the end of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) in September as required by the USGS. Adjustments to the study are then made to reflect changes in funding and work plan accomplishments if necessary. Every year staff will return to the Board with an amendment for adjusting scope and cost for each fiscal year until the study is complete.

The culmination of this project will be a detailed report and fact sheet on current and future water availability in the San Antonio Groundwater Basin under current and future cultural and climatic scenarios. When complete the final report will be brought back to the Board to receive and file.

This project will provide an invaluable tool for the compliance with SGMA as this basin is identified by DWR as one of the priority basins with a Groundwater Sustainability Plan expected to be completed by 2022.

Background:

The San Antonio Creek Valley is located in western Santa Barbara County about 15 miles south of Santa Maria and 55 miles north of Santa Barbara. Land in the San Antonio Creek Valley is used primarily for agriculture. Historically, the Upland parts of the Valley have been used for dry farming or pastureland and the flatlands along the streams for irrigated farming.

Significant changes in land use have occurred since the San Antonio Groundwater Basin was last comprehensively studied in the early 1980's. Since then, large sections of formerly non-irrigated pastureland in the Upland parts of the Valley have been converted to irrigated vineyards. Data has thus far been limited in the Uplands but in areas there have been water level declines of over 50 feet since the early 1980's. The western quarter of the Valley is owned by VAFB and they have agreed to participate in the project with a discrete level of funding and interaction.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total 6-year Project Cost</u>
Federal USGS	\$ 207,911.00	\$	\$ 464,751.00
Water Agency	\$ 1,142,953.00	\$	\$ 1,656,845.00
VAFB	\$ 162,934.00	\$	\$ 533,174.00
Total	\$ 1,513,798.00	\$ -	\$ 2,654,770.00

Narrative:

Partial costs for this study were included in the Adopted 2016-2017 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-319 in the budget book. No General Fund monies will be utilized for this study.

Approval of this BRR is necessary to re-appropriate costs for installing monitoring wells that were scheduled in the FY 2015-16 work plan, but were delayed. The well installation is now complete and costs will be paid out of the FY 2016-17 budget. The total cost to the Water Agency over the study period will remain the same.

The USGS is providing a cost share of specific project costs. The USGS will be the lead on the project and Water Agency staff will assist as needed. VAFB is also partnering in this study but under a separate contract with USGS since they are both federal agencies.

Starting next fiscal year, the work plan and amendment for the San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study will change from a FFY (October 1-September 30) to a County FY (July 1 to June 30) to match with the County’s budget year. The Water Agency will be returning to the Board three months earlier than usual to discuss the study’s status and work plan for FY 2017-18.

Key Contract Risks

The key contract risks for this agreement are low.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return all three (3) originals of the agreement and a copy of minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez. Once the agreement has been executed by the USGS, an original will be returned to the COB for your recorders.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Amendment No. 2 to the Joint Funding Agreement #15WSCA600081610.A2 with contract summary (3 originals)
- Attachment B: Budget Revision Request (BJE No. 0004810)
- Attachment C: Joint Funding Agreement (original agreement)

Authored by:

Matthew C. Scrudato, Senior Hydrologist, Water Agency, 568-3582