



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: Parks/Water Agency
Department No.: 054-04-07
For Agenda Of: 05/13/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency
Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s) Daniel Hernandez, Parks Director, 568-2461
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Grant Application to Help Protect Cachuma Lake from Quagga Mussels

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

1. Concur with an application to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to provide up to \$20,000 in funds to the County Water Agency for various components of a program to protect Cachuma Lake from quagga mussels;
2. Approve and authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to execute any and all grant agreements and any subsequent amendments to receive grant funds essentially consistent with the attached project description; and
3. Concur and authorize the Public Works Director and the Parks Department Director to seek and apply for additional sources of funding in support of a comprehensive quagga mussel prevention program of outreach, information, inspection, monitoring, and treatment protocols for all boat owners seeking launch access at Cachuma Lake.

Summary Text:

A grant is currently available for award as soon as May 2008 through USBR's South Central California Area Office for work related to Cachuma Lake. Because these funds are specifically designated by USBR for its Cachuma Project, and because the County Water Agency is the local agency which signed the contract under which USBR furnishes Cachuma Project water, the Bureau would award the grant funds to the County Water Agency. The Water Agency will then work in partnership with the County

Parks Department to ensure the grant funds are used in ways which support boat launch protocols recently approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Such support may include: on-site informational materials, off-site public awareness campaign, and on-site equipment to ensure clean and dry boats at Cachuma Lake.

Background:

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) constructed Cachuma Lake and Bradbury Dam in the early 1950's as part of the Cachuma Project. Under a contract between USBR and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency, USBR furnishes Cachuma Project water in stated quantities to specified water districts and agencies referred to as Cachuma Member Units, which include: the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Montecito Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1. Cachuma Project water serves as the primary source of potable water for Cachuma Member Units. Thus, any potential loss of water supply or water contamination at its source in Cachuma Lake, or at subsequent piping and water distribution facilities, poses a serious threat to potable water supplies and agriculture for hundreds of thousands of people in Santa Barbara County.

Quagga mussels are a non-native invasive species that now pose a well-documented threat to fresh water lakes across the United States, and they have recently been found in several lakes in Southern California. The mussels have the potential to be transported from one water body to another by boats carrying the adult mussels, or potentially their larvae, on hulls, in bilges, and in other wet areas in boats. Currently there is no known remedy to safely eliminate quaggas from a body of water once infested. They can quickly multiply and are known to clog waterways and pipelines, reducing water availability and water quality while creating costly maintenance problems. In addition, once they are established, the mussels change the ecosystems of the water system where they live, negatively impacting other species as well as recreational opportunities for people relying on healthy waterways.

Santa Barbara County has attempted to stay ahead of the curve in preventing the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels into Cachuma Lake. Most recently, in March 2008, the County Board of Supervisors approved the County Parks Department's new inspection protocols for all boat owners seeking launch access at Cachuma Lake. All boats are subject to inspection, treatment and/or quarantine before being allowed to launch at Cachuma Lake. In implementing the new protocols, the Parks Department has temporarily *borrowed* two pressure washers for cleaning hulls. The Department needs more permanent equipment along with other potential infrastructure improvements and informational tools and materials.

If the Water Agency is successful in this request to USBR, then the Water Agency and/or Parks Department will enter into a grant agreement with USBR and will return to the Board for approval to accept the unanticipated revenue and to adjust the budget to account for new expenditures.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No **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			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

The grant application requires a 50% cost share. Match requirements would be met through contributions from County Parks Department and County Water Agency. Water Agency staff time would be used for \$1,000.00 of the local cost share, while Parks Department’s contribution of \$19,000.00 would be from a combination of staff time and potential purchases of equipment, materials, and/or supplies. If grant funding is received, staff will return to the Board to receive these funds and allocate money for these expenditures.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Approval of the project does not result in addition of FTEs.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Authored by: Len Fleckenstein, Senior Program Specialist, Water Agency, 568-3545

cc: