



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

2015 SEP 24 PM 2:20

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: Water Agency  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: October 6, 2015  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

**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:** Santa Barbara County Water Agency's Water Management Plan,  
All Supervisorial Districts

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Adopt a "Resolution Adopting the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's 2013-2018 Water Management Plan" and authorizing the Public Works Director, or designee, to file the plan with the United States Bureau of Reclamation; and
- b) Find that the Santa Barbara County Water Agency Water Management Plan 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:**

The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) holds the Master Contract for the Cachuma Project with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). In turn, the Water Agency holds contracts with the Carpinteria Water District, the Montecito Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, the Goleta Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. #1, collectively called the Cachuma Member Units (MUs). In accordance with these contracts, the USBR requires that the Water Agency and MUs complete a Water Management Plan every five years and have it adopted by their respective governing entities. The plan, which is Exhibit A of the resolution, is required to follow the USBR template and is a compilation of information on water supplies,

infrastructure, sources, costs, and conservation measures of each MU and the Water Agency. Because the Water Agency is not a purchaser or purveyor of water, much of the requested information on the plan is not applicable to the Water Agency but is provided separately in the MU plans. The USBR will include the Water Agency and MU plans in the Federal Registry.

**Future Cachuma Issues:**

As seen by the current drought, Cachuma is not able to deliver a reliable water supply through a critical drought period, generally 6 to 7 years. In most recent years, increased reductions in deliveries were not taken resulting in the lake reaching historic low levels. In future years the Water Agency will work collaboratively with the Cachuma Member Units to implement delivery allocations that will extend the life of the reservoir over a longer period to ensure a secure water supply. If Cachuma receives inflow this year, but does not spill, the Water Agency will analyze the inflow volume and work with the MUs to develop an approach that ensures water deliveries should the drought continue.

In addition, the Master Contract for the Cachuma Project is up for renewal in 2020. As such, the Water Agency will return to your Board for direction on the Water Agency's involvement in a renewed contract.

**Background:**

The most recent plan was for the five years ending in 2013. In consultation with the USBR, the Water Agency completed the plan dated July 24, 2013 which is Exhibit A of the resolution. The USBR has waited until now to approve the Water Agency plan pending the completion of plans by each of the MUs. The plan is reflective of the USBR requirements for its format and of the MU's roles as water providers and purveyors. Therefore, much of the requested information of the plan is not applicable to the Water Agency but is provided separately in the MU plans. Although some of the information contained in the plan is now dated, the USBR requires that the current plan contain information pertinent to 2013 in order to correspond to that submitted by the MUs. The next plan will be required in 2018.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Narrative:**

As the Master Contract holder for the Cachuma Project, work to address USBR requirements is an ongoing program and costs and staff time are included in the Water Agency's budget every year. There were no outside costs to develop this plan. No General Fund Monies were utilized for this project.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk to post the Notice of Exemption (NOE) and to return a stamped copy of the NOE along with copies of the resolution and minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Resolution Adopting the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's 2013-2018 Water Management Plan  
- Exhibit A: Santa Barbara County Water Agency's 2013-2018 Water Management Plan
- Attachment B: CEQA NOE

**Authored by:**

Matt Naftaly, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542