



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/PW
Department No.: 054-04-07
For Agenda Of: 10/28/08
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)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Cuyama Ground-Water Basin Study

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

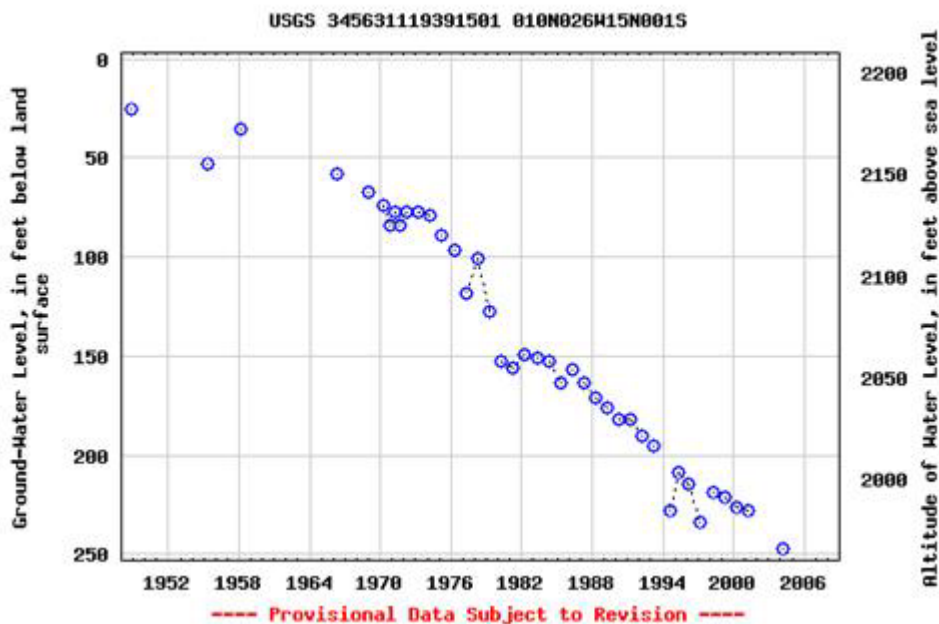
Recommended Actions:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Joint Funding Agreement (No. 09W4CAD03910) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to initiate a comprehensive study of the Cuyama Ground-water Basin in order to assess current and future water availability in the amount of \$365,600 for the period of October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012 in which \$284,400 to be funded by the County Water Agency and \$81,200 will be funded by the USGS;
2. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Joint Funding Agreement (No. 09W4CAD03920) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide drilling associated with a comprehensive study of the Cuyama Ground-water Basin in order to assess current and future water availability in the amount of \$174,400 for the period of October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2012.
3. Concur and authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to seek and apply for additional sources of funding including State of California AB303 local groundwater assistance grants in support of a comprehensive study of the Cuyama Ground-Water Basin to better understand current and future water availability; and

4. 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 consistent with the attached project description.

Summary Text:

Due to concerns raised by constituents in the Cuyama Valley the Santa Barbara County Water Agency has been commissioned to produce a comprehensive report on current and future water availability on the Cuyama Ground-water basin. The Cuyama Basin has shown a steady downward trend in water levels over the past 30 years with water level declines of 150’-200’ common in many areas. The Water Agency has elected in turn to conduct this study in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey as the USGS holds the most expertise and highest level of credibility in a water resources science investigation. This project will be conducted over a four year period, ending in approximately 2012. Projects of these types take a long time due to the nature of data collection and analysis. Along with periodical updates a final report will be published. The USGS will cost share for some of the elements of the project. Total cost to the Water Agency over the four year period is estimated to be \$1,347,900.



Monitoring Well Data from the Cuyama Groundwater Basin 1950 -2005

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a local ground-water assistance grant program sponsored under proposition 50, chapter 8, that was passed by voters as part of the *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002* that allows public agencies to apply for up to \$250,000 per fiscal year. These local groundwater assistance grants are to be used for ground-water data collection, modeling, monitoring and management studies; monitoring programs and installation of equipment; basin management; and development of information systems. DWR has awarded \$6,400,000 in grant funding to 31 public agencies for fiscal year 2007-2008. The Water Agency intends to apply to this grant program and use it to augment funding for the Cuyama Ground-Water Basin study. In addition the Water Agency will continue to explore other sources of grant funding for this project.

Background:

The Cuyama Ground-water Basin lies about 45 miles east of the City of Santa Maria in the north-eastern corner of Santa Barbara County and extends south-east into Ventura County as well as north and east into San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. The basin is comprised of unconsolidated sands and gravels that fill a 225 square-mile intermountain topographic depression named the Cuyama Valley. Agricultural water use began in 1938 and has since progressively increased. Ground-water within the basin makes up 100 percent of water supply for Cuyama Valley agriculture, petroleum operations, businesses, homes and farmsteads. Agriculture accounts for over 95 percent of the water use within the Valley. Water level declines since the 1940's in excess of 150-200 feet are not unusual in many parts of the basin. The last ground-water analysis of the basin by the Water Agency in 1992 indicated an overdraft of approximately 28,000 acre-feet per year. Due to concerns raised by constituents in the Valley, the Water Agency has been commissioned to complete a thorough and detailed analysis of current and future water availability for the basin.

The local ground-water assistance grant, if successful, will be used to augment Santa Barbara County and USGS funding. Approval of this Joint Proposal Agreement will allow the Water Agency to move forward with the USGS to conduct this study.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes **Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total 4-year Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
USGS	\$ 81,200.00		\$ 293,200.00
Water Agency	\$ 458,800.00		\$ 1,347,900.00
Other:			
Total	\$ 540,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,641,100.00

Narrative:

The funding for this project is being split by the Water Agency and the USGS with the USGS providing a cost share of certain project cost. The AB303 grant does not require a cost share or match, however if matching funds are available it is desirable as part of the application process. The Water Agency has \$458,400 budgeted for FY 2008-2009 for this project and the USGS has their matching funds budgeted so matching funds are secured. The USGS requires us to approve the JFA on a year by year basis therefore staff will return to the board on a year by year basis to report progress during the previous year and approve the JFA for the following year. Additional funds for the Water Agency portion of this multi-year project will be budgeted in the Water Agency Budget through the normal Budget process.

The project is included in the Adopted 2008-09 Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-336.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return all four originals of both agreements along with a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez. The Water Agency will return the agreements to the USGS for their approval. Originals of each agreement will be returned to the Clerk of the Board for your files after the agreements have been approved by the USGS.

Attachments:

Joint Funding Agreement #09W4CAD03910 (4 originals)

Joint Funding Agreement #09W4CAD03920 (4 originals)

Summary – Geohydrology and Water Availability of the Cuyama Valley, California

Authored by: Dennis Gibbs, Senior Hydrologist, Water Agency, 739-8781