



**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: 10/26/10
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Director of Public Works (568-3010)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Jon Frye, Interim Deputy Director, Water Resources (568-3444)

SUBJECT: Water Quality Grant Applications, All Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: No

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached Resolution entitled "In the Matter of Approving the Clean Water Youth Education Program" to apply for and receive grant funding from the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grants Program to receive funding up to \$50,000, and agreeing to the terms and conditions of the grant;
- b) Authorize the Public Works Director or designee to enter into and execute a grant agreement and any subsequent amendments to receive grant monies for the Clean Water Youth Education Program; and
- c) Authorize the Public Works Director or designee to seek and apply for additional water quality project and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities.

Summary Text:

Since the inception of Santa Barbara County's Project Clean Water Program in 1999, the Water Resources Division has periodically obtained water quality and storm water management project grants from federal and state agencies. Funding through such grants has been an essential element in providing projects and programs to protect public health and to enhance environmental quality in Santa Barbara County watersheds and beaches.

One of the more important and resource intensive components of Project Clean Water is the public education and outreach program. Among other things, the program supports youth education by

contracting with outside agencies to provide water quality education designed to promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources. A \$50,000 grant through the California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grant Program would provide one year of funding for continued support of countywide classroom education and field trips to the Watershed Resource Center at Arroyo Beach County Park and the Cabrillo Aquarium in Lompoc. The program educates approximately 3,000 students per year in North and South County. Recommended actions a and b would allow the Water Resources Division to apply for and receive grant funding specifically from the Whale Tail Grant Program for the 2010-2011 grant cycle.

Additionally, the Water Resources Division seeks the Board's approval to apply for additional appropriate water quality grants that may arise. The time allowed for submission of applications for grants is often too short to allow for prior Board approval. Board approval to apply for available grants would ensure that the opportunity to secure funds for clean water programs from non-general fund sources is fully taken advantage of. Upon being awarded any such grants, the Water Resources Division will obtain Board approval prior to accepting grant funds.

Background:

There is an ongoing need for continued and strengthened water pollution prevention and awareness due to public health concerns and the need to meet increasingly rigorous Clean Water Act requirements. In addition, budgetary constraints make it necessary to seek non-general fund sources of revenue to support Project Clean Water. The Water Resources Division applies for grants from federal and state agencies as a way of implementing the County's storm water management program and leveraging limited County resources.

The Whale Tail Grants Program distributes funds from sales of Whale Tail Vehicle License Plates to support programs that teach California's children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state's marine and coastal resources. Consistent with this purpose, grant funds received by the Water Resources Division would be used to fund the youth education program run by Art From Scrap. Art From Scrap's Creek Kid's Series teaches children about watersheds and how polluted storm water reaches the ocean via storm drains and creeks. One element of the series is a field trip to the Watershed Resource Center where students learn where common water pollutants originate and what they can do to reduce storm water pollution. The students then conduct a beach clean-up and collected materials are sorted and analyzed. North County students' field trip is to the Cabrillo Aquarium located in Lompoc.

Grant solicitations are often issued with a very short time period for submitting applications. The time frame often does not allow for the Water Resources Division to obtain Board approval prior to applying. Recommended action (c) above would allow the Water Resources Division to apply for appropriate water quality and storm water management grants without seeking prior approval from the Board. The Board's approval would be obtained prior to the acceptance of funds awarded to the Water Resources Division.

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 One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Water pollution prevention and awareness is an ongoing program in the Water Resources Division. Funding for the Project Clean Water program was included in the Adopted 2010-11 Budget under the Water Agency section of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-366 in the budget book.

The Project Clean Water 2010-2011 adopted budget of \$837,331 includes a \$300,000 general fund contribution, with the balance coming from one-time grant funds and program reserves. Assuming continued revenue and expenditure levels, budget projections indicate that program reserves will be depleted by fiscal year 2012-2013, requiring either major reductions in the storm water management program and noncompliance with state and federal requirements or an increase in general fund contribution toward the program. The Water Resources Division continuously seeks outside grant funds to offset existing expenditures and maintain program reserves to fund the program farther into the future.

Staffing Impacts: N/A

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

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

Authored by: Joy Hufschmid, Project Clean Water Manager, 568-3373