



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: PW/Water Agency
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: February 7, 2023
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, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Water Resources (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving Participation in the Desalination Executable Solution and Logistics Plan with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution to approve and authorize the Santa Barbara County Water Agency to participate in the Desalination Executable Solutions and Logistics Plan in partnership with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; and
- b) Find that this action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (b)(4).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to adopt a resolution to approve and authorize the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) to participate in the Desalination Executable Solutions and Logistics (DESAL) Plan with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLO District) (Attachment A).

Background:

On October 18, 2022, the SLO County Board of Supervisors authorized SLO District staff to proceed with developing a plan for a regional desalination facility in coordination with other participating water-purveying agencies and stakeholders. SLO District staff have requested that interested agencies approve resolutions indicating interest and authorizing participation. The project will proceed in several phases with an initial planning level evaluation (the DESAL Plan), followed by development of the desalination facility itself. The attached resolution is intended to indicate interest in being evaluated as a potential partner in the initial DESAL plan.

All phases, including an anticipated schedule for Phase 1, are described in the following table:

Phase 1: DESAL Plan Agreement Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get resolutions from agencies agreeing to be evaluated in DESAL Plan (Winter '22/Spring '23) • Develop and vet scope of work with participating agencies (Winter '22/Spring '23) • Establish stakeholder and public engagement process (implement through all phases) • Seek/pursue grant opportunities (continue through all phases) • Review scope of work/engagement process with the SLO District Board/direction to proceed (Summer '23)
Phase 2: DESAL Plan Development Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLO District procure consultant • Implement public engagement process • Identify project concept alternatives, vet, and analyze • Rank and select preferred project
Phase 3: Project Development Agreement Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment from project partners to pay for and proceed with project development and all efforts necessary to get to construction phase
Phase 4: Project Development Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed project design, permits and environmental processes, operations and distribution plans, right of way negotiations, water supply and Governance Agreement negotiations, Financing plan
Phase 5: Project Governance Agreement and Construction Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute Governance agreement for construction and ongoing maintenance

The ongoing drought has impacted water purveyors throughout Santa Barbara County. Desalination, although generally costly, provides a drought-proof supply that can supplement other less-reliable supplies. The Water Agency’s 2015 Long Term Supplemental Water Supply Alternatives Report identifies partnering with San Luis Obispo County on a regional desalination project as a promising water resource management strategy. Paired with the Water Agency’s ongoing study of indirect potable reuse options, this partnership with SLO would serve to enhance the overall water supply portfolio for water users in the County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Narrative:

At this time, SLO District is not asking for financial contributions for development of the initial plan from participating agencies. There are no fiscal impacts with this action, however, funding for Regional Water Supply Planning was included in the adopted FY 2022-23 budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-424 in the budget book.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the resolution and minute order of these actions to clopez@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution Approving Participation in the DESAL PLAN with SLO County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Authored by:

Matt Young, Water Agency Manager, 805.319.3866