



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/Flood Control  
**Department No.:** 054  
**For Agenda Of:** September 12, 2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Flood Control & Water Conservation District

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Matt Griffin, Interim Deputy Director – Water Resources (805) 568-3444

**SUBJECT:** **Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program,  
All Supervisorial Districts**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey to continue the county-wide cooperative Stream Gauging Program from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$365,750 of which \$270,460 will be funded by the Flood Control District; and
- b) Find that the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program 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:**

This item is on the agenda in order to approve and authorize this annual countywide Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide for continuation of the cooperative water resources data-collecting program in Santa Barbara County.

The program consists of stream gauge measurements and monitoring. The cooperative stream gauging program provides for the collection of flow data in strategic locations of selected creeks and rivers. The

data collected is used for a variety of purposes, including facilities design, flood warning, and water supply.

The USGS provides the County access to all of the data collected, with pertinent data made available in real time via the internet. The stream gauges included in the program are listed in the attachment of the JFA.

The term of this annual JFA is from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

**Background:**

The Flood Control District (District) has had a cooperative water resources data collection program with the USGS for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the District, allows for the understanding of complex local hydrological systems in our highly variable climate. The USGS has the personnel, equipment, technical expertise, and credibility to collect quality data. In addition, the USGS has rigorous quality assurance and a publicly accessible data distribution system. The program directly benefits a wide range of local agencies as well as the public.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

This JFA contract has previously been renewed for over 20 years, with all contracts resulting in a favorable performance outcome.

**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>
Federal USGS			\$ 95,290.00
Flood Control District Funds			\$ 270,460.00
Federal Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 365,750.00

Narrative:

This program was included in FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-331 in the budget book. No General Fund monies will be utilized for this program.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE) and email Christina Lopez @ [clopez@countyofsb.org](mailto:clopez@countyofsb.org) to pick up an original of the signed signature page of the JPA, copy of the minute order, and copy of the stamped CEQA NOE.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A - Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations with the USGS  
includes contract summary
- Attachment B - CEQA NOE

**Authored by:**

Shawn Johnson, Senior Hydrologist, Flood Control District, (805) 568-3452