

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on:
Department Name: Public Works/Laguna
Sanitation
Department No.: 054-04-07
Agenda Date: 07/12/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

Board of Directors
Laguna County Sanitation District

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Director

STAFF Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, (Ext. 3436)

CONTACT: Rob Almy, Water Agency Manager (Ext. 3542)

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution to apply for Implementation Grant Funds from the Integrated
Regional Water Management Grant Program

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors/Directors:

- A. Adopt the attached Resolutions to apply for implementation funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director and the Parks Director or their designees to enter into Grant Agreements and all other subsequent agreements or amendments for County sponsored projects within the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program, if it is awarded.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations align with Goal No. 5: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In early 2002, a bond measure (Proposition 50) was put on the November ballot to provide funding for water-related projects in California. A number of local agencies began participating in the support efforts for Proposition 50 by joining the Northern and Coastal California Water Bond Initiative Coalition. Through the Coalition, an invitation was sent to all interested special districts and local government agencies within Santa Barbara County to meet and prioritize eligible water-related projects from the area.

California voters passed Proposition 50 that November and the State began efforts to disburse the funds through a grant program, resulting in the development of the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program (IRWM). The IRWM Grant Program is a joint program between the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board which provides funding for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and reduce dependence on imported water.

The funding for this program can be used for IRWM Planning and Implementation Grants with up to \$500,000 per planning grant, and up to \$50 million per implementation grant

On April 26th, 2005, the Board of Supervisors approved a grant proposal for the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the region. The grant proposal was filed with the State on May 9, 2005 and is currently under review. The proposal described the Water Agency's goals to continue to work with local agencies and special districts in the development of an IRWM plan to address regional water management to be completed by January of 2007. The proposal included a list of preliminary capital projects, including several County sponsored projects, which will implement the goals of the plan.

Implementation funds for projects within IRWM plans are currently available to regional agencies. County Water Agency staff is committed to regional cooperation and coordination in reaching water management goals in partnership with cities and special districts within the County. In this spirit, the Water Agency notified cities and special districts of the availability of funding and has coordinated with interested agencies to develop a proposal for implementation funding in the current grant round. The Water Agency is also developing an interim IRWM plan for the region as part of the requirements of the grant proposal.

This proposal requests funding for a list of priority projects managed by various agencies within the region. The projects, listed in Exhibit A, will implement objectives of the developing IRWM plan and contribute toward water management goals in the Santa Barbara County area. If funding is awarded, agencies managing each project as listed in Exhibit A will contract directly with the state for the portion of the grant requested on their behalf. The County will contract with the State for County sponsored projects only.

This is the first of two steps in the implementation funding request process. In December of 2005, regions will be notified of the status of their Step 1 proposal, and successful regions will be asked for more detailed project information for Step 2 of the process. Grant awards are expected in fiscal year 2006-2007.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Approval of the application of this grant will allow the Water Agency to better coordinate with cities and special districts in securing funds for priority water related projects within Santa Barbara County. Approval of the application of this grant may also provide funding to the Water Agency, Parks Department, and Laguna County Sanitation District for projects sponsored by these agencies as listed in Exhibit A, helping these departments to reach the regional water management objectives in the interim IRWM plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The IRWM grant program requires a 10% local sponsor match for each capital project. The grant funding will be available in FY 2006-07. County projects that are approved for this funding will budget the local match in their 2006-07 budgets. The County will only enter into grant agreements for approved County projects. The other agencies will also be required to enter into grant agreements for their approved projects and budget the required match for their projects.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to call Laurie at ext. 3440 to pick copies of the resolutions and minute order of these actions as soon as the documents are ready.