



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
Department No.: 054-04-07
For Agenda Of: 09/11/12
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Cuyama Groundwater Basin Study, First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

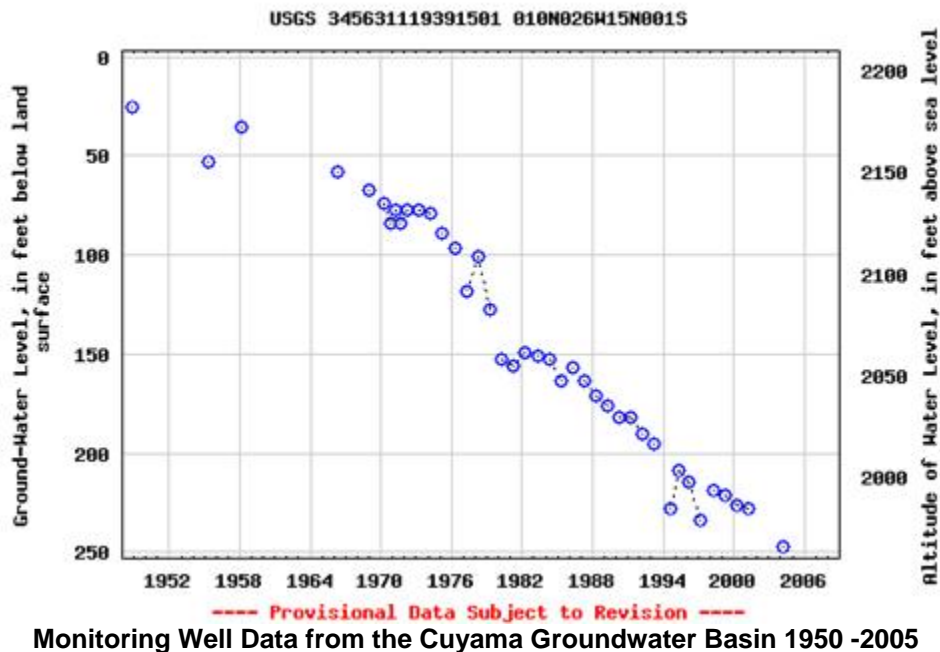
Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Joint Funding Agreement (No. 09W4CAD03910, Amendment 5) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to complete a comprehensive study of the Cuyama Groundwater Basin increasing the USGS cost share by \$94,230 and extending the period from December 31, 2012 to June 30, 2013;
- b) Find that the Cuyama Groundwater Study is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6); and
- c) Approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

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 in the Cuyama Groundwater basin. Portions of the Cuyama Basin have 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 is conducting this study in cooperation with the USGS since they have the most expertise and highest level of credibility in water resource related scientific investigations. This project is being conducted over a four year period. It began in the summer of 2008 and will end in early 2013. This time frame is necessary to allow adequate time for the collection and analysis of the required data. Along with periodical updates, a final report will be published. The USGS has cost shared some of the

elements of the project. Total cost to the Water Agency over the four year study period is estimated to be \$1,400,700.



Following is a list of goals achieved and benchmarks reached toward the goal of the finished study and final report:

1. Maintained and collected data from the monitoring network of 52 sites.
2. Installed continuous water level recorders in an additional three wells, to total 18 altogether.
3. Conducted water quality testing at 15 sites.
4. Continued work on a digital database and GIS system with digital stratigraphic logs attached to the sites.
5. Continued work on a computerized simulation to project trends based on differing climatic and cultural scenarios.
6. Finalized water distribution mapping to account for where water is produced and where it is delivered in the agricultural areas.

Background:

The Cuyama Groundwater Basin lies about 45 miles east of the City of Santa Maria in the northeastern corner of Santa Barbara County and extends southeast 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. Groundwater 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.

Execution of Joint Funding Agreement 09W4CAD03910 Amendment 5 provides additional funds for the USGS to complete the study, at no additional cost to the Water Agency.

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> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Federal USGS | \$ 94,230.00 | | \$ 370,800.00 |
| Water Agency | \$ - | | \$ 1,400,700.00 |
| Other: | | | |
| Total | \$ 94,230.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,771,500.00 |

Narrative:

The funding for this project is being shared by the Water Agency and the USGS with the USGS providing funds for specific project costs. Funds necessary for this project for FY 2012-2013 have been budgeted by the Water Agency and matching funds from the USGS have been secured. This is the final amendment to the initial contract and will culminate in the completion of the report and of this project. When complete the final report will be brought back to the Board to receive and file.

The project is included in the Adopted 2012-2013 Budget under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-144 in the budget book. No General Fund monies will be utilized with these actions.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption and to return one executed original of the agreement, a stamped copy of the Notice of Exemption, and a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

- Joint Funding Agreement #09W4CAD03910, Amendment 5 (2 originals)
- Contract Summary
- Attachment A – Program Scope
- Notice of CEQA Notice of Exemption

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