



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: Fire Department
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: 06/26/12
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Michael Dyer, Fire Chief 805-681-5500
Director
Contact Info: Eric Peterson, Division Chief/Fire Marshal 681-5500

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution allowing the Fire Department to apply for and accept Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Funds.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: yes

Other Concurrence: yes

As to form: Risk Management

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: yes

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Fire Chief or his designee to apply for **Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program** funding from the Regional Water Management Program (Prop 84); and
- b) Authorize the Fire Chief or his designee to enter into any and all agreements, amendments, and subsequent agreements with state Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive Local Groundwater Assistance Grant funding.

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, Hazardous Materials Unit is the County agency responsible for remediation oversight of hazardous materials release sites within Santa Barbara County including incorporated Cities and the University of California Santa Barbara. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has overall state responsibility for the protection of water quality and oversees the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), which is the State agency responsible for the protection of groundwater and surface waters within this county.

A significant number of sites in the City of Santa Barbara area have been identified with various forms of hydrocarbon and other types of contamination. Due to the age, nature and history of the

contamination, these sites have proven problematic to catalogue and establish a definitive plan of action to deal with the environmental and health threats they pose. The Fire Department intends to apply for a Local Groundwater Assistance Grant to assist in tracking the potential threat of hazardous materials to drinking water supplies and local surface waters, and thereby provide a strategy for future action.

The Board adoption of the attached Resolution would authorize the County Fire Department as the local agency to file an application and enter into agreements with the State for Local Groundwater Assistance Grants through Proposition 84. In addition, the Board action requested herein will allow work to provide a better understanding of the cleanup sites that pose the greatest risk to human and environmental health and drinking water resources in the Santa Barbara area, enabling the Fire Department and the Regional Water Board to better prioritize and focus efforts to reduce human health and resource risk.

Background:

The Local Groundwater Assistance grants provide local public agencies with up to \$250,000 to conduct groundwater studies. Since the grant is intended to benefit local public agencies, the Fire Department would take the lead, through the services of a contractor, to conduct a groundwater study to address a longstanding need to compile data and establish cleanup priorities for the Santa Barbara Groundwater Basin. This area encompasses the City of Santa Barbara predominantly with some unincorporated areas to the east and west.

The Fire Department would be the local agency applying for this grant. A portion of the grant funding would be provided to the Fire Department to offset the administrative cost of handling the funding and providing technical oversight. Because the Fire Department resources are limited, the Regional Water Board would provide additional technical support and work closely with the consultant. This groundwater study would greatly benefit understanding of the shallow aquifer pollution that continues to threaten water resources, human health, and the environment. In addition the study would provide the necessary information to assist in the prioritization, cleanup, and closure of soil and groundwater contaminated sites in the City of Santa Barbara and unincorporated county areas.

Draft guidelines for Local Groundwater Assistance grants were released by Department of Water Resources in May 2012. The Grant Application is due July 13, 2012. The Fire Department would collaborate with the City of Santa Barbara, Regional Water Board and the local interest group Heal the Ocean in preparation of the Grant Application.

It is anticipated that Department of Water Resources will select successful grant applications in January 2013 and work would commence in the third quarter of 2013 (the beginning of FY 2013-14).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

None. There is no local match required by this grant.

The Fire Department would provide oversight and approval for the Local Groundwater Assistance Grant application prior to submittal. Effort for preparation of the application would be primarily borne by the Regional Water Board staff with input from the City of Santa Barbara and Heal the Ocean. Future costs for administration of any grant funds awarded and technical oversight of the project will be provided through the Grant, making the project cost neutral to the County. Other participants (such as the Regional Water Board and the City) would provide for their own participation in the study.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send the following to the Fire Department office, Attn: Rose Pueschel

- copy of the Resolution
- copy of minute order

Attachments:

1. Resolution entitled “*Authorization to Submit a Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Application*”

Authored by: Eric Peterson, Fire Marshal