



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
For Agenda Of: 11/08/11
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: Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Streamgaging Program

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 Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the cooperative streamgaging program from November 1, 2011 though October 31, 2012 in the amount of \$453,940 of which \$300,830 will be funded by the County Water Agency; and
- b) Find that the Cooperative Streamgaging Program Study is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, Section 15262; Feasibility and Planning Studies and Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, and direct the Clerk of the Board to file the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption (POST).

Summary Text:

This Joint Funding Agreement is an annual agreement between the Water Agency and the USGS and will provide for continuing the cooperative and cost sharing water resources data collecting program in Santa Barbara County. The program consists of a cooperative streamgaging program for both agencies as well as groundwater monitoring and surface water quality monitoring for the Water Agency. The cooperative streamgaging program provides for the measurement and recording of flows in strategic locations of selected creeks and rivers. The data collected is used for facilities design, flood warning, climate studies, and other purposes. The program is outlined in Attachment A and includes federal cost sharing and covers stations located throughout the County.

The full range monitoring that is provided by this program is used for the design of properly sized channels, storm drains, retardation basins, and delineation of flood hazard areas. Additionally, stream flow data continues to be very valuable for water supply and flood frequency studies for flood warning system simulation and operations. Some of the gages monitor downstream flow from reservoir releases as a basis for water rights accounting.

Some of the gages can also be monitored in real time on the internet. The USGS produces an annual report for both surface and ground-water data collected. The data are used to evaluate changes in water supply due to drought and wet cycles, monitor changes in ground water quality and guide development of water management decisions.

The attached Notice of Exemption will satisfy CEQA requirements for the Cooperative Stream Gaging Program.

Background:

Santa Barbara County has had a cooperative data collection program with the USGS for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the Flood Control District allows understanding of complex local hydrological systems in our highly variable climate. The USGS has the personnel, equipment and credibility to gather useful data. Furthermore the USGS has rigorous quality assurance and publicly accessible data distribution. The program directly benefits a wide range of local agencies and directly and indirectly the general public.

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 One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal - USGS	\$ 153,110.00		
Water Agency Funds	\$ 300,830.00		
Other:			
Total	\$ 453,940.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

This program was included in the 2011-12 Adopted Budget under the Water Agency cost center in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-352 in the budget book.

In addition, similar to last year, the Cachuma Betterment fund may also contribute funding to this program.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to Post the attached Notice of Exemption. Send the following to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez:

- all three originals of the USGS Cooperative Agreement
- a copy of the minute order
- a copy of the stamped CEQA Notice of Exemption

After the agreement has been executed by the USGS, the District will return a fully executed original to the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations (3 originals)
Attachment A – Program Scope
CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by: Matt Naftaly, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542