



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: 11/01/11
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 D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Water Conservation Grant Applications, All Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Authorize the Water Agency Manager or his designee to seek and apply for water conservation project and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY2011-2012; and
- b) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (b)(4) (creation of government funding mechanisms) and direct the Clerk of the Board to file the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption (POST).

Summary Text:

Since the inception of Santa Barbara County's "Regional Water Efficiency Program" in the early 1990's, the County Water Agency has periodically obtained water conservation project grants from federal and state agencies. Funding through such grants has been an essential element in providing tools and programs to promote water conservation on a regional scale. However, the time allowed for submission of applications for such grants is often too short to allow for prior Board approval and coordination with cooperating agencies. Therefore, the Water Agency seeks the Board's approval to apply for appropriate water conservation grants during FY 2011-2012. Upon being awarded any such grants, the Water Agency will obtain Board approval prior to accepting grant funds.

Background:

There is an ongoing need for continued and strengthened water conservation due to increasing population, climate change, environmental concerns, and loss of water storage capacity within the County. The County Water Agency coordinates a “Regional Water Efficiency Program” (RWEF) as a collaborative partnership among 17 water purveyors County-wide. These water purveyors contribute both dollars and staff time to help implement water conservation programs as a key element of water management in Santa Barbara County. As part of its coordination role, the Water Agency applies for grants from federal and state agencies as a way of implementing programs at a regional level that would otherwise not be affordable by many local purveyors. Grant solicitations are often issued with a very short time period for submitting an application. The time frame often does not allow for the Water Agency to coordinate with local water purveyors and obtain Board approval prior to applying. The recommended action would allow the Water Agency to apply for appropriate water conservation grants during FY2011-12 without seeking prior approval from the Board. The Board’s approval would be obtained prior to the acceptance of funds awarded 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 One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Water Conservation is an ongoing program with program costs budgeted on an annual basis. However, potential grant funding was not included in the current budget so if grant funding is received, the Water Agency will return to the Board to accept the funding.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption and to send copies of the NOE and minute order these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Authored by: Len Fleckenstein, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, 568-3545