



# City of Santa Barbara

Office of Mayor

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May 1, 2017

Helene Schneider  
Mayor

County of Santa Barbara  
Clerk of the Board  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 407,  
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

City Hall  
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Santa Barbara, CA  
93101-1990

SUBJECT: CACHUMA CONTRACT RENEWAL

Mailing Address:  
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Dear Board of Supervisors:

Tel: 805.564.5323  
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The City of Santa Barbara (City) has been informed that the County of Santa Barbara (County) intends to renew its Cachuma Project Water Service Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. This process has not yet formally initiated, but is expected to begin this year with a goal to execute a new contract by 2020.

The City looks forward to collaborating with the County, Bureau of Reclamation, and other Cachuma Member Units on a successful contract renewal process. City staff have been participating in the Cachuma Project Steering Committee formed by the County.

Prior to initiating a formal process, the City is looking for further clarification on how Member Unit staff and elected officials will be involved in the process proposed by the County. Inevitably, issues will come up during the contract renewal process; some of which, may be unforeseen today. The process should be structured in a way that allows for direct communication among key stakeholders, and fair decision-making when issues arise.

The City requests the following with regard to the process:

1. Member Unit staff be included in all discussions with the Bureau
2. Process include meetings with Member Unit elected officials
3. Process include the weighted voting by Member Unit used in all other Cachuma related decision making bodies of elected officials for decision-making on activities related to the master contract. This is the manner in which issue at Cachuma Operations Maintenance Board (COMB) are managed and the manner in which the previous contract with the USBR was managed.

The Cachuma Member Units have invested over \$100 million in the Cachuma Project and continue to spend millions each year to operate and maintain this critical water supply asset for the region. In the 1948 Congressional Authorization for the Project, the primary purpose is clearly stated as water supply. While it was recognized that there



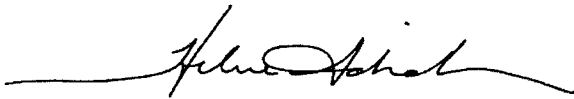
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would be other secondary benefits such as recreation and reduced flooding downstream, the Cachuma Member Units have born the responsibility of paying for the Cachuma Project costs due to the project authorization for water supply purposes. Designation as a multi-benefit project for flood control and recreation would have also provided funding for those functions. Because of the Cachuma Member Units obligation for costs, it is imperative that the elected bodies representing the rate payers for the project have a meaningful voice in contract renewal.

We appreciate the work of the County, and look forward to working jointly to collaborate effectively for a successful outcome on the contract renewal.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helene Schneider", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Helene Schneider  
Mayor

Cc:

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