

A-16



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: 08/26/08  
Placement: Set Hearing  
Estimated Tme: 1 hour on 10/07/08  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

07626-07  
AUG 14 AM 9:54  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

AUG 26 2008

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

TOP FOR SOW

SUBJECT: Receive Report on the County's Current Water Supply Status and Water Conservation Efforts in Light of the Statewide Drought Proclamation, All Districts

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

Set time on the October 7, 2008 departmental agenda (ESTIMATED TIME: 1 HOUR) to receive a report regarding the County's current water supply status and water conservation efforts in light of the Governor's Statewide drought proclamation.

**Summary Text:**

Santa Barbara County's water supply status differs significantly from the State as a whole. Most water purveyors within Santa Barbara County receive water supplies from a variety of sources, including local surface water, groundwater, and imported water from the State Water Project. This diversity in combination with favorable winter conditions has resulted in sufficient local water supplies at the present time.

Cachuma Reservoir, the County's primary water supply reservoir received significant inflow last year and filled to capacity in early February. As of mid-August, the reservoir remained filled to 95% of capacity which normally equates to several years of supply. With few exceptions, groundwater basins within the County remain in balance or in a state of recharge. Although State Water deliveries are expected to meet only 35% of state wide requests, local entities will likely receive closer to 80% due to water exchange and banking projects. In addition, many water purveyors have water re-use and reclamation projects and/or actively replenish groundwater basins with treated wastewater.

In addition, local water purveyors carry out a range of water conservation programs which help to address the demand side of water usage. Demand for water is reduced through local and County-wide programs such as: rebates for certain commercial water saving equipment; educational and outreach campaigns; water-wise landscaping information, through print and broadcast media including both TV and radio; green gardening classes; a viewer-friendly website at [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org); and other projects and programs often coordinated on a regional County-wide basis.

Nevertheless, the state-wide concerns serve as a warning to Santa Barbara County that we may soon be in a similar position if climatic conditions do not improve. Although residents of Santa Barbara County have demonstrated leadership in water conservation, we must continue to be water wise and to plan for potential water shortages. Local jurisdictions that are not as water-conserving as the County average, or which may be dependent on limited sources of water, are at a greater risk of encountering water shortages.

The County Water Agency, along with local water purveyors and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, coordinated the development of both (1) a regional drought plan in 2004, and (2) a handbook (last revised in September 2007) as a tool to help water districts prepare their own drought plans. The *Regional Water Shortage/Drought Plan* identifies actions to be taken by County staff in coordination with local water purveyors, including develop a coordinated advertising campaign and public information materials, and complete an inventory of potential surplus water available for exchange/sale to districts that may wish to augment their existing supplies.

Water supply is not a County responsibility, but is the responsibility of individual local water purveyors and joint powers authorities, including the Central Coast Water Authority for SWP supplies and the Cachuma Conservation and Release Board and Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board. However, the County Water Agency is the original contract holder with U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for both the Cachuma Project and Twitchell Reservoir. The County Water Agency also tracks groundwater levels and periodically publishes a report on groundwater status - - last issued in 2005.

The presentation on October 7, 2008 will provide the Board with more detailed information and data regarding water supply conditions and the current water conservation programs in Santa Barbara County.

**Background:**

On June 4, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order (S-06-08) proclaiming “a condition of statewide drought”. The Executive Order cited over a dozen reasons for the drought proclamation including: statewide rainfall has been below normal in 2007 and 2008; statewide runoff in 2008 is forecast to be 41 percent below average; the Lake Oroville reservoir which supplies the State Water Project (SWP) is at only 50 percent of capacity; reservoirs throughout the Colorado River basin are reduced to just over 50 percent of capacity; diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for the SWP and the Central Valley Project (CVP) are being greatly restricted due to various factors including federal court decisions resulting in SWP deliveries of only 35 percent and CVP deliveries of only 40 percent of local agencies’ requested amounts for 2008; dry conditions have created a situation of extreme fire danger in California; and other reasons.

The Executive Order directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to:

- Facilitate water transfers to respond to emergency shortages across the state.
- Work with local water districts and agencies to improve local coordination.
- Provide technical assistance for drought response to local water agencies and districts.
- Expedite existing grant programs to help local water districts and agencies conserve.
- Conduct aggressive water conservation and outreach campaign.
- Coordinate with other state and federal agencies and departments to assist water suppliers, identify risks to water supply and help farmers suffering losses.
- and other coordination and outreach efforts.

The order also encourages local water districts and agencies to take aggressive action to reduce water consumption locally and regionally.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Narrative:**

Water Conservation is an ongoing program for the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the County Public Works Department. All of the current program elements are included in the Adopted 2008-09 Budget as shown on page D-336 in the budget book.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of this action to the Water Agency office, attn: Christina Lopez.

**Attachments:**

**Authored by:**

**cc:**