



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: PW/Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: March 7, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Flood Control (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: Central Coast Water Authority Exchange Request – All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District:

- a) Approve an exchange of State Water Project water between Central Coast Water Authority and Irvine Ranch Water District and authorize the Director of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District or his designee to execute the associated Department of Water Resources conveyance and approval agreement.
- b) Find that the proposed exchange of water between with Irvine Ranch Water District is in the best interests of the District because the exchange protects water stored in San Luis Reservoir from loss due to an imminent spill and direct staff to make the necessary Article 57(g) findings for this exchange.
- c) Find that this action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15269(a), 15061(b)(3), and 15301, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the Santa Barbara County Clerk.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve a request from the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) for an exchange of State Water Project (SWP) water between CCWA and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to execute the associated Department of Water Resources conveyance and approval agreement.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) has a long-term water supply contract with the DWR. IRWD receives SWP supplies from Municipal Water District of Orange County, a member unit of Metropolitan. Under the proposed terms of the agreement (Attachment A), IRWD and CCWA would implement a Short-Term Exchange Program (Exchange Program) that would allow CCWA to schedule up to 1,500 acre-feet of unused SWP water to Metropolitan on IRWD's behalf on a 2:1 exchange ratio basis. As part of the exchange, the water may be temporarily managed in IRWD's Strand and Stockdale Integrated Banking Projects. Water would be returned when requested by CCWA but not later than the end of the sixth calendar year after the delivery of Exchange Water, unless the parties mutually agree to extend the term. Because this exchange is at a ratio greater than 1:1, approval by your Board is required prior to processing by staff pursuant to Board Resolution No. 21-73 (Attachment B).

CCWA is requesting the exchange because carryover water stored by CCWA members (i.e. local purveyors) in San Luis Reservoir is in imminent danger of being lost once the State's share of the reservoir is full. As of March 2, 2023, San Luis Reservoir was at approximately 893,000 acre-feet, out of a total of 1,062,000 acre-feet of State storage space. California Department of Water Resources staff have indicated that the State's space in the reservoir may become full in the near future. Staff recommends approving the exchange to prevent the complete and imminent loss of and preserve several local purveyor's carryover water.

CCWA's Board will consider approving the exchange at an emergency meeting on March 8, 2023. If it does not approve the exchange, it will not proceed. Both the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Department of Water Resources also must approve any exchange of State Water Project water. The Department of Water Resources must also review and approve the exchange. If it does not approve the exchange, it will not proceed.

Background:

Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District") has a Water Supply Contract with the Department of Water Resources for State Water Project water. Local purveyors, such as Carpinteria Valley Water District, receive State Water Project water through subcontracts with the District. On April 20, 2021, the District Board approved Amendment 21, (also known as the Water Management Amendment) to the Water Supply Contract. Along with this approval, the District Board passed Resolution No. 21-73 to guide the performance of the District's duties to the Department of Water Resources under Amendment 21 in light of the ongoing drought emergency in Santa Barbara County and throughout the State of California. Any uneven exchange, which could potentially reduce the long-term water supplies for the District, must be approved by the Board. In addition, pursuant to Article 57(g) of Amendment 21, the District must make the following findings when approving any exchange:

1. The District has complied with all applicable laws.
2. Notices to public agencies and the public of the proposed purchase have been sent.

3. The relevant terms of the Transfer have been provided to the Water Transfers Committee of the State Water Contractors Association.
4. The District is informed and believes that the Transfer will not harm other contractors.
5. The District is informed and believes that the Transfer will not adversely impact SWP operations.
6. The District is informed and believes that the Transfer will not affect its ability to make all payments, including payments when due under the State Water Contract for CCWA's share of the financing costs of the State's Central Valley Project Revenue Bonds.
7. The District has considered the potential impacts of the Transfer within its service area and determined that the Transfer would be beneficial.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Narrative:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the minute order of these actions to clopez@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Term Sheet

Attachment B: Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District No. 21-73

Attachment C: CEQA NOE

Authored by:

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