



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: 08/18/09
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

0818.12

09.00713

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Director of Public Works (568-3010)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Director, Water Resources (568-3436)

[Signature] AUG 18 2009
TDF

SUBJECT: Water Conservation Grant Applications, All District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: NA

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

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 FY 2009-2010.

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 2009-2010. 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 application. The time frame often does not allow for the Water Agency to coordinate with local water purveyors and obtains Board approval prior to applying. The recommended action would allow the Water Agency to apply for appropriate water conservation grants during FY2009-10 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 in the Water Agency. Funding for this program was included in the Adopted 2009-10 Budget under the Water Agency section of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-344 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.

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