

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 09/05/03  
**Department Name:** Water Agency/Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054-04-07  
**Agenda Date:** 09/23/03  
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**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**  
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**TO:** Board of Directors  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

**FROM:** Phillip M. Demery  
Public Works Director

**STAFF CONTACT:** Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436  
Cathleen Garnand, Civil Engineer Associate III, Ext. 3561

**SUBJECT:** **Twitchell Reservoir Outlet Gate Corrosion Protection Project, Fifth Supervisorial District**

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Approve plans and specifications for the Twitchell Reservoir Outlet Gate Corrosion Protection Project; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to advertise and receive bids for the project.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Twitchell Dam and Reservoir were constructed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for two principal purposes: conservation of water for groundwater recharge and flood control. Since the completion of its construction in 1958, the reservoir has accumulated sediment at an average annual rate of 1,200 acre-feet per year, more than twice the rate designed for the reservoir. Currently, the loss of storage capacity due to sedimentation exceeds 25 percent of the total capacity.

Sedimentation threatens the operation of the reservoir's outlet works. Following the 1998 rains of El Nino, a substantial amount of sediment and debris washed into the reservoir and completely blocked the opening of the lower port. Since that time, two silt removal operations were conducted to keep the outlet works open and operable.

This project proposes some additional work to preserve and protect the actual gates within the dam. The project consists of cleaning and repainting the gates to protect them from corrosion. This work will ensure the life of the gates and continued reliable operations.

This work is paid for through a federal grant to provide for continued safe operation of the Twitchell Project.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

There are no changes in mandates or service levels for the current fiscal year. Completion of the project would help to preserve the capacity and operability of Twitchell Reservoir.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The project will be funded entirely under a federal appropriation from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This funding was provided under the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Appropriations Act of FY 2001 (PL 106-554) under the Economic Development Initiative as a special project for Santa Barbara County as "\$498,900 for costs associated with emergency sediment removal in Twitchell Reservoir". This project was included in a final budget adjustment for fiscal year 2003/04 in the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department. The estimated project cost for FY 2003-04 is \$45,000 and will be paid from Dept: 054, Acct; 7460, Fund: 3050, Program: 3011. The remainder of the \$498,000 federal appropriation will provide for similar work to be done on an as needed basis over the next four years.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.