

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:**  
**Department Name:** Water Agency/Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054-04-07  
**Agenda Date:** 05/18/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**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)  
Darcy Aston, PW Program Specialist Sr, (Ext. 3546)

**SUBJECT:** Adopt a Resolution to receive Grant Funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Green Gardener Certification Program

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution to accept the terms and conditions of the Standard Agreement (Number 03-223-553-0) with the State Water Resources Control Board to receive grant funding for the *Green Gardener Certification Program*; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to enter into the Standard Agreement (Number 03-223-553-0) and all other subsequent agreements or amendments to receive up to \$73,000 in funding for the *Green Gardener Certification Program*.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations align with Goal No. 5: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On May 21, 2002, your Board received information regarding the Water Agency's grant application to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for the Green Gardener Certification Program. Through Proposition 13, funds were available for projects through the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, for projects that "restore and protect the water quality and environment of coastal waters, estuaries, bays, and near shore waters and groundwaters". The Green Gardener Certification Program grant application was approved by the SWRCB to receive Proposition 13 funding in the amount of \$73,000.

The goal of the Green Gardener Certification Program is to offer education, training, certification and promotion of participating gardeners and landscape contractors in order to 1) To reduce nonpoint source pollution from landscape sites, 2) Improve resource efficiency, and 3) Improve the health, appearance and value of landscapes for customers and site managers. The program provides economic incentives to program participants, both gardeners and their clients. This innovative certification program, which was initiated in March 2000, offers a new educational tool to help local agencies further their shared goal of reducing

pollution and promoting resource efficiency in the landscapes for the South Coast of Santa Barbara County (South Coast.)

Work to be performed under this grant includes:

- **Modular Curriculum Development:** Standardize the course curriculum to insure consistent and adequate training of gardeners. This will include the development of videos and other visual presentations, and increase parity between English and Spanish language materials. This standardization of the curriculum will allow the program to be easily transferred to other communities.
- **Course Administration:** This comprises staff time for administration and operation of the course, including coordination of instructors, class scheduling and organization. This covers fall and spring class sessions, offering both basic and advanced training.
- **Gardener Tools:** Certified Green Gardeners receive materials to enhance their education. These include a substantial course binder, and a soil probe. They also receive a certificate, hat, and card to identify them as Certified Green Gardeners.
- **Monitoring:** Four students, prior to certification, will be selected to be part of a targeted monitoring effort. Baseline water quality data on nutrients, pesticides and bacteria will be collected from runoff from landscape sites they maintain (two commercial and two residential landscapes), prior to implementation of Green Gardener practices. Water quality will then be monitored after implementation of Green Gardener practices. This monitoring will help to determine the impact of the Green Gardener Certification Program on water quality, and also determine modifications that should be made to make the program more effective.

### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Staff time will be required to coordinate implementation of these projects and manage consultant/professional services contracts. Staff participation in the Green Gardener Certification Program meets objections of the Regional Water Efficiency Program and Project Clean Water. This program also helps the County meet NPDES Phase II permit requirements.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Proposition 13 grants require a local match. This match will be provided by in-kind staff time and existing program funds provided by other grants and program partners. This grant will fund ongoing programs, therefore, staff time is already included in the Project Clean Water and Water Agency work programs for this project. Revenue from this grant was included in the 2004-05 proposed Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department. The proposed budget for the program is shown below:

**Budget**

	<b>PROP 13</b>	<b>COUNTY MATCH</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Project Administration	\$ -	\$8,975	\$8,975*	\$17,950
Quality Assurance Project & Monitoring Plans	-	1,500	-	1,500
Project Assessment and Evaluation Plan	-	750	-	750
Community Outreach	10,000	-	3,000**	3,000
Standardized Curriculum Development	20,000	-	-	-
Schedule & Conduct Training	30,000	-	-	-
Gardener Tools			6,000**	6,000
Water Quality Monitoring	13,000	2,350	2,350*	4,700
Draft and Final Project Reports		1,500	-	1,500
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$73,000</b>	<b>\$15,075</b>	<b>20,325</b>	<b>\$108,400</b>

\* Includes time for City of Santa Barbara staff funded by the City.

\*\* Funded through GGCP partners