

**SANTA BARBARA  
COUNTY AGENDA  
BOARD LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:  
Department: Water Agency/Public Works  
Budget Unit: 054-04-3007  
Agenda Date: 10/19/04  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time: N/A  
Continued Item: NO  
Document Name: Brdoct19.Cloudseeding.Doc

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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  
Dennis Gibbs, Hydrologist, Ext. 3543

**SUBJECT:** **Cloud Seeding Program 2004-2005**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** C.A. Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Concur with the attached Planning and Development Department's finding that CEQA Section 15164 is applicable to 00-ND-29 and that this document is adequate to meet the requirements of CEQA for the Santa Barbara County-Twitchell Reservoir Cloud Seeding Program;
- B. Approve the 2004-2005 cloud seeding program and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement with North American Weather Consultants. Inc., a vendor located at 8160 South Highland Drive, Suite A-2, Sandy, Utah 84093 for cloud seeding for the period of October 19, 2004 through June 30, 2005 unless earlier terminated, in an amount not to exceed \$241,415.00; and
- C. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Extension and Renewal of Lease Agreements with the following property owners for ground based cloud seeding activities for the period of November 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005:
  - 1. Joseph M. Graham, et al, in for the amount of \$600.00;
  - 2. Clear Channel Santa Barbara, in the amount of \$600.00;
  - 3. Young America's Foundation, in the amount of \$1,200.00;
  - 4. Earl J. Dolcini, in the amount of \$900.00; and
  - 5. Goleta Water District (Corona Del Mar facility) at no charge

**ALIGNMENT WITH BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 5. Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION:**

Cloud seeding has long been recognized as a cost-effective supplemental water supply alternative and, for that reason, has been an ongoing program of the County Water Agency since 1982. Storage space is available in county reservoirs and several ground water basins remain close to or in a state of overdraft. Specifically, Twitchell Reservoir has 100% of its storage capacity available while Cachuma Reservoir has over 116,000 acre-feet of available storage.

### Proposed Program And Agreements

The attached agreement with North American Weather Consultants, Inc. (NAWC) provides for an aerial and ground based cloud seeding program, similar to programs conducted during the last sixteen years (excluding 1985-86). The program was bid as a "professional services contract" and NAWC was awarded the contract with three bids submitted, all from outside the local area. There are no local cloud seeding vendors. This year's proposed program again not only targets the Middle and Upper Santa Ynez Watersheds but also includes seeding of drainages located in San Luis Obispo County which will augment runoff into Twitchell Reservoir. The Gaviota Fire area is not a target area or near the target areas mentioned above and as such will not affect the cloud seeding program.

Meteorological monitoring services provided as part of the cloud seeding contract have proved to be invaluable during winter storm events. The program's full-time certified meteorologist (who has access to sophisticated radar capability) is used to augment the Flood Control District's existing storm-monitoring capabilities. The program includes operational constraints designed to preclude or limit seeding effects over flood sensitive areas. As is standard practice, the Flood Control District would retain final decision-making authority over all seeding operations for safety reasons.

The attached Extension and Renewal Lease Agreements will secure the existing favorable land based seeding sites for the upcoming rain year.

### Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

On November 28, 2000, your Board approved 00-ND-29 pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA). The Planning and Development Department reviewed the proposed 2004-05 program and made the finding that CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 is applicable thus no additional review is required.

## **MANDATES & SERVICE LEVELS:**

Cloud seeding is not a mandated program. The proposed program will result in no change in programs or service level compared to last year. The program's objective is to enhance regional water supplies and thus may be considered an important public service.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The program cost continues to be split between the Water Agency and local water districts with the Water Agency providing administration of the project. This agreement is considered equitable because

the areas in the county located outside of water districts' service areas derive much of the benefits from the cloud seeding program. In years past, the support from the County's Water purveyors has eroded leaving the County Water Agency bearing a greater share of the costs. On May 15, 2001, your Board directed staff to return the program to a true 50-50 cost share. Contributing purveyors have agreed to make up for shortfalls created by purveyors who choose not to contribute.

The cloud seeding program was included in the 2004-05 Adopted Budget in the Water Agency's cost center of the Water Resources Division as identified on page D-326 in the budget book. The program costs will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Acct: 7460, Program: 3009.

<u>Total Program Costs (Estimated):</u>	
NAWC, Inc.	\$241,415
Leases, Noticing, Utilities and other direct costs	\$ 10,200
Total	\$251,615
<u>Total Revenue Sources:</u>	
County Water Agency Contribution	\$125,808
Purveyor Contribution	\$125,808
Total	\$251,615

In addition to the contractor and lease costs, the Water Agency has allocated \$20,000 in staff costs for the administration of project operations.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please return two originals of the Cloud Seeding Agreement and three originals of the five Extension and Renewal Lease Agreements with a copy of the minute order to the Water Agency, Attn: Christina Lopez.

**Concurrence:** Auditor-Controller, County Counsel