



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:** October 4, 2016  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 90 minutes  
**Continued Item:** Yes  
**If Yes, date from:** December 15, 2015  
**Vote Required:** Majority

---

**TO:** Board of Directors, Water Agency

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

**SUBJECT:** Long-Term Water Supply Update, All Supervisorial Districts

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Receive and file a report on the status of water supplies in Santa Barbara County;
- b) Receive a report on current and planned water supply projects by the local water purveyors; and
- c) Determine that the proposed action is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act pursuant Guidelines Section 15378(b) (5), as it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda at the request of the Board to follow up on the status of the water supplies in Santa Barbara County and actions taken by the local water purveyors to supplement their supplies.

On December 15, 2015, your Board received and filed the newly completed Long-Term Water Supply Alternatives Report (Report). In that report, some 120 different water supply alternatives were identified and classified based on regional feasibility. Your Board directed an update on the status of water supply projects.

## **Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Coordination**

At the February 2, 2016 meeting of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Cooperating Partners, the Report was discussed and adopted as an addendum into the Santa Barbara Area IRWM Plan.

It was decided that to follow up on the Report and to initiate potential Proposition 1 eligible projects, the IRWM group would host regional and sub-regional meetings to discuss the Report within the context of the IRWM Regional Objectives and Project Scoping guidelines. Participation in the meetings was excellent, and included local government representatives, water and wastewater districts, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Three County-wide regional project scoping meetings were held between March and May, followed by three sub-regional (North, Mid, And South County) meetings from June to August. A regional “summary” meeting was held on August 10, 2016 to discuss outcomes and projects.

Feasible preliminary short-term projects identified for IRWM implementation funding rounds include:

- *North County*: Indirect and/or Direct Potable Reuse Project
- *Mid-County*: Well efficiency Projects in Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District #1, Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, Vandenberg Village
- *South County*: South Coast Conduit Efficiency Project and Indirect/Direct Potable Reuse Project
- *Regional*: Incentives program for water softener elimination and hydrant flusher acquisition

Potential longer term projects identified:

- Inter-Regional Desalination: San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties

DWR’s Proposition 1 Final State Program Guidelines indicate a Central Coast Funding Area IRWM share of \$43 million, with a Santa Barbara IRWM share of \$6.3 million for project implementation and \$1.8 million for Disadvantaged Communities. Funding may be available in FY 2017/18. It is important to understand the IRWM Proposition 1 Funding is just one potential funding source, and that these, and other potential projects may be eligible for multiple alternate funding programs.

In addition to the IRWM hosted meetings, following the Board’s approval of the Long-Term Water Supply Alternatives Study, actions by some purveyors have been taken to seek additional potential water supplies and efficiencies.

The drought has shown that local water supplies suffer to varying degrees. In response to this, some agencies have been taking steps in a variety of ways to address supplies. These items include:

### **Santa Barbara County Suspended Table A**

As your Board is aware, the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) has requested the reacquisition of 12,214 acre-feet (AF) of Suspended Table A Water from the State Water Project (SWP) as a drought buffer to firm up supplies. Since the Coastal Branch Aqueduct was sized for the remaining 39,078 acre-feet per year (AFY), the Suspended Table A water could be used for deliveries to firm up that Table A

yield in any given year. Agencies currently interested in this water include: City of Santa Maria, City of Guadalupe, City of Solvang, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District #1 (ID 1), and Carpinteria Valley Water District.. This item was heard by the Board of Directors of the Flood Control and Water Conservation District on February 9, 2016, and will be heard separately from this action.

### **City of Santa Barbara Desalination (Desal) Plant**

The City of Santa Barbara is under construction of their Desal Plant. While the Plant is permitted for up to 10,000 AFY, initial construction is planned at 3,125 AFY. The City of Santa Barbara and Montecito Water District are in negotiations and working on terms and conditions that would define a long-term commitment for Montecito Water District to receive desal water on an annual basis. However, with Cachuma shortages exposed, and a new Safe Yield study preliminarily showing that Cachuma deliveries will be less than past years, this plant is an opportunity to compensate for these reductions.

Contaminated soils and other delays have pushed back the opening of the desal plant into early 2017.

To see video of project update:

[http://santabarbara.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=592675ee-6fce-11e6-8170-f04da2064c47&utm\\_source=September+6%2C+2016&utm\\_campaign=City+News+in+Brief&utm\\_medium=email](http://santabarbara.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=592675ee-6fce-11e6-8170-f04da2064c47&utm_source=September+6%2C+2016&utm_campaign=City+News+in+Brief&utm_medium=email)

### **Recycled Water**

Several agencies have initiated further analysis for utilizing recycled water including; Goleta Water District, Santa Ynez Valley Agencies (ID1, Santa Ynez Community Services District, City of Solvang, and the Los Olivos Community), Carpinteria Valley Water District, City of Santa Barbara, and Laguna County Sanitation. These agencies are considering a variety of reuse including direct and indirect potable use, and non-potable reuse.

### **State Water Project Exchanges**

Over the period of the recent drought, many local water purveyors have been able to enhance their water supplies through either the outright purchase of water or exchanges through the SWP. In addition, the Report identified underutilized San Luis Obispo (SLO) County's Table A Water as an option and CCWA is now actively working on a year to year transfer with SLO County. While SLO County has a total Table A amount of 25,000 AFY, they are contracted with CCWA to only deliver up to 4,830 AFY.

In years of lower delivery, CCWA and SLO County are working on a proposal to deliver water to SLO in excess of their 4,830 AFY. Under the proposal, CCWA would receive 1 AF of water from SLO for every 1 AF of water they can deliver to SLO from their unused Table A. Under this arrangement, CCWA increases its drought buffer at basically no cost, while SLO gets to benefit from underutilized capacity that Santa Barbara County participants paid for.

## **Stormwater Capture**

Goleta Water District has initiated a study of stormwater capture options to increase groundwater recharge. Also though IRWMP, Prop 1 Funding may be available to fund additional work. Other opportunities would include re-operation of the Twitchell Reservoir to allow season increases in water storage (reserved for Flood Control) when applicable.

## **Regional Desal**

The regional plumbing provided by the State Water Pipeline (the Coastal Aqueduct and the CCWA Extension) allows a number of concepts for a regional desal plant. Potentially one hurdle is the cost of the investment for an agency already paying the capital costs of the State Water Project. However, moving forward, discussions with the State needs to occur to investigate any options for a trade of SWP Table A for funding assistance on a new desal plant and approval to move non SWP water through the system. Willing agencies are also needed to implement this.

## **County Purveyor Supply Summary**

Included in Attachment A are the responses from the local water purveyors that responded to the County's request for information of their supply and demand status. In summary, all of the North County purveyors are able to meet their demands in the foreseeable future based on continued reliance on groundwater and imported/State Water.

On the South Coast, surface water supplies (primarily from Cachuma) make up the majority of the normal supply. With zero new allocations in the 2016 Water Year, the Cachuma Member Units retained Cachuma supplies into 2016 as "carryover" water. These supplies will continue to be drawn down in the absence of new Cachuma allocations.

As reported to your Board in July, future allocations from Cachuma need to be re-evaluated and it is clear that future Cachuma allocations will need to be reduced to account for current conditions. As such replacement supplies would be needed to make up this reduction. Currently, the City of Santa Barbara is reactivating its desal plant at a planned capacity of 3,125 AFY. Its permitted capacity is 10,000 AFY. The Montecito Water District and the City of Santa Barbara continue discussions for sharing this supply moving forward. The Carpinteria and Goleta Water Districts are investigating options for increased recycled water options as new supplies.

In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board (WRCB) recently issued a Draft Order that would result in more releases from Cachuma in wet and above average years (as defined by the WRCB). As such, more releases would be needed to meet flow targets downstream of the Dam for Endangered Steelhead Trout. Completion of the Endangered Species Consultation is still outstanding; this consultation is between the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## **Background:**

At the Board's direction, beginning in September 2006, the County Water Agency has worked with a County-wide group of 29 cities, special districts, water companies, joint powers authorities, and NGOs to develop the first Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (completed in May 2007). The plan was updated in 2013.

As authorized by the Water Agency Board of Directors on December 11, 2007, the Water Agency acts as the single eligible grant recipient responsible for administration of the IRWMP Grants. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and sub-grant agreements between the Water Agency and Project Proponents, the Water Agency functions as a pass through agency between the State and Proponents. The Water Agency is responsible for organizing and forwarding the required project reporting information to the State and to review and submit claims to the State from each Project Proponent. Project Proponents are then reimbursed once funding is received from the State.

Pursuant to the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Water Code Section 79560 et seq.), on behalf of the 29 Cooperating Partners within the Santa Barbara Area IRWM Region who assisted in the preparation of the IRWM Plan, the County Water Agency has applied for and been granted approximately \$32 million in funding for 24 water related projects within the County. These grants included approximately \$27 million for 15 regional water projects through Proposition 50, a \$550,000 Proposition 84 Planning Grant used for the 2013 update of the IRWM Plan, \$3,000,000 for 7 regional water projects through Proposition 84, Round 1, and \$2,000,000 through the Proposition 84 Drought Round.

On December 15, 2015, your Board received information on the Long-Term Water Supply Alternatives Report and an update on the drought and short-term water supply issues facing Santa Barbara County water purveyors. At that meeting, the Water Agency was asked to return to your Board in September 2016 with a status report on the following items:

1. Update on ongoing IRWMP process relating to drought and water supply projects,
2. Identifying where water shortages exists,
3. Safe Yield supplies, and
4. Explore feasibility of desalination options.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative:

There are no fiscal impacts associated with these board actions.

**Special Instructions:**

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

**Attachments:**

Attachment A - Responses from water purveyors' regarding their supply and demand status

Attachment B - PowerPoint Presentation

**Authored by:**

Thomas. D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436