



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Water Agency
Department No.: 054-04-09
For Agenda Of: 10/10/06
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency
FROM: Department Director: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436
SUBJECT: Cloud Seeding Program 2006-07

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

- 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 2006-2007 cloud seeding program and authorize the Chair to execute the agreement with North American Weather Consultants, Inc., a vendor located at 8180 South Highland Drive, Suite B-2, Sandy, Utah 84093 for cloud seeding for the period of October 10, 2006 through June 30, 2007 unless earlier terminated, in an amount not to exceed \$277,765;
- c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Lease Agreement for Monitoring and Generator Station with Betteravia Investments, LLC for ground-based cloud seeding activities for the period of November 1, 2006 through October 31, 2007 in the amount of \$1,500.00 per year;
- d) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Right of Entry License with Plains Exploration and Production Company to access an existing private road on APNs: 097-360-010 and 099-010-056 for ground-based cloud seeding activities at no cost; and
- e) 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, 2006 through October 31, 2007:
 - i) Community Radio Inc., in the amount of \$1,200.00;
 - ii) Young America's Foundation, in the amount of \$1,200.00;
 - iii) Earl J. Dolcini, in the amount of \$900.00.

Summary:

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 24 years (excluding 1985-

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86). The program was bid as a “professional services contract” in 2004 with an option to re-hire the contractor without re-bidding for three years 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. 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 attached Lease Agreement and Extension and Renewal Lease Agreements will secure the existing favorable land based seeding sites for the upcoming rain year.

Alignment with other River System interests and Safety concerns

When it is apparent that Lake Cachuma or Twitchell Reservoir will fill, seeding operations immediately cease in that watershed. The program includes operational constraints designed to preclude or limit seeding effects over flood sensitive areas. Only backcountry areas behind major reservoirs are targeted. As a standard practice, the Flood Control District retains final decision-making authority over all seeding operations for safety reasons. The Perkins Fire in the Cuyama Valley is not in a target area or near the target areas mentioned above and will not affect the cloud seeding program. The Day Fire in eastern Ventura County is far outside the target areas for this program and as such will not affect the program but will be monitored closely throughout the winter season. The California Department of Water Resources labels cloud seeding as a “safe and effective means of augmenting local water supplies”.

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 2006-07 program and made the finding that CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 is applicable thus no additional review is required.

Background:

The cloud seeding program uses state of the art methods accepted by California Department of Water Resources to augment rainfall in designated target areas by injection of silver iodide into the cloud mass, acting as artificial condensation nuclei to form more raindrops. 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 many county reservoirs and several ground-water basins remain close to or in a state of overdraft. Specifically, Lake Cachuma has 22,220 acre-feet of storage space available, Gibraltar Dam has 2,400 AF of storage space available and Twitchell Reservoir currently has 90,000 AF of storage space available.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

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 past years, 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.

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This program was included in the 2006-07 Adopted Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as identified on page D-322 in the budget book.

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized Cost:</u>	<u>Total Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Water Agency funds	\$ 145,483.00		\$ 145,483.00
Water Districts' share	\$ 145,483.00		\$ 145,483.00
Total	\$ 290,966.00	\$ -	\$ 290,966.00

Narrative:

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return the following to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez:

- Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor w/North America Weather Consultants (2 originals)
- Lease Agreement with for Monitoring and Generator Station with Betteravia Investments (1 original)
- Right of Entry License with Plains Exploration and Production Company (1 copy)
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Community Radio Inc. (3 originals)
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Young Americas (3 originals)
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Earl J. Dolcini. (3 originals)
- Copy of the minute order

Attachments: (list all)

- CEQA Determination from Planning and Development
- Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor w/North America Weather Consultants (3 originals)
- Lease Agreement for Monitoring and Generator Station with Betteravia Investments, LLC (2 originals)
- Right of Entry License with Plains Exploration and Production Company
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Community Radio Inc. (4 originals)
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Young Americas (4 originals)
- Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Earl J. Dolcini. (4 originals)

Authored by: Dennis Gibbs, Hydrologist, Sr., 568-3543

cc: