



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: April 5, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
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: Authorize the Public Works Director to Execute Grant Agreement for Proposition 1, Counties with Stressed Basins Grant and Agreement with Dudek, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to approve and execute a grant agreement and all subsequent agreements or amendments necessary to receive Proposition 1, Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant funding monies in the amount of \$249,240 from the State Department of Water Resources;
- b) Authorize the Chair to execute the agreement with Dudek (a local vendor) for Groundwater Sustainability Agency formation and governance, and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act grant tracking and application services for the period of April 5, 2016 through June 30, 2018 in an amount not to exceed \$509,760;
- c) Approve a 10% contingency with Dudek in the amount of \$50,976 for any work needed to complete the work;
- d) Direct staff to return to the Board for direction on the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in Santa Barbara County; and

- e) Determine that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), organization or administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Summary Text:

In 2015, the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a “Counties with Stressed Basins Grant” solicitation under the Proposition 1, Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program (SGWP). In December, 2015, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) submitted a grant application to receive SGWP monies for the maximum allowable amount available of \$250,000 per county. On January 22, 2016, DWR announced their draft funding recommendations which included the recommended award to Santa Barbara County for \$249,240 for Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) formation.

SBCWA is contracting with Dudek from the Public Works Master’s Services Agreement list for Water Resources Engineering for GSA formation and governance and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) grant tracking and application services. GSAs will be needed for the 3 basins the State is requiring Groundwater Management Plans for; Cuyama, San Antonio, and Santa Ynez.

Cuyama

In process with LAFCO is the formation of a California Water District by agricultural interests in the Cuyama Valley. It is expected the County will participate in a GSA with this District (pending formation) along with the Counties of San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kern. Additionally, the New Cuyama Community Services District may be a GSA member. The new Water District, if formed, is expected to pay for the majority of the costs of the management plan development and implementation.

San Antonio

In the San Antonio Creek Groundwater Basin, SBCWA is conducting an in-depth technical study of the groundwater basin. Discussions of GSA formation have been addressed in this basin given the current and ongoing work and it is anticipated that the County will participate in the San Antonio Creek GSA, with representation from the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, the Los Alamos Community Services District, and although not required through SGMA, Vandenberg Air Force Base is likely to play a role as well.

Santa Ynez

In the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, the SGMA process and GSA formation will include a host of agencies including cities, districts, and the County. The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD) covers most of the area and looks to be positioned to be a technical lead, but the County will be participating as a GSA member. The SYRWCD was created in 1939 to protect water rights and manage groundwater resources in the lower Santa Ynez River Watershed. Portions of this watershed however are outside of the SYRWCD boundaries. The County will be the lead in these areas. Additionally, the County still retains land use authority in all unincorporated areas. In all cases, final details of GSA responsibilities will be developed and will be subject to your Board’s approval.

SGMA requires local GSA formation by June 30, 2017. Staff will return to your Board well before that deadline for direction on GSA formation in the Basins.

Background:

The SGWP provides funds for projects that develop and implement sustainable groundwater planning and projects consistent with groundwater planning requirements outlined in Division 6 of the California Water Code. Proposition 1, approved by the voters on November 4, 2014 authorized the legislature to appropriate funds to DWR to establish the SGWP grant program.

SGMA was signed into law by Governor Brown in 2014. SGMA provides a framework for the sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local agencies and provides tools, authority, and a timeline for local agencies during the 20-year implementation period. SGMA will require sustainable management of three of the County’s basins that were designated as medium priority by DWR. These basins are the Cuyama Valley, San Antonio Creek, and Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basins (Basins). SGMA requires local GSA formation by June 30, 2017.

The concept of GSA formation promoted through SGMA as a means to achieving sustainable basins and implementing SGMA mandates is a foundational activity that shapes the arc of SGMA compliance. GSA formation sets the tone and stage for follow-on activities such as the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) and the implementation of projects. GSAs, which represent local governance of water resources and stewardship, are empowered with financial regulatory and enforcement abilities and will be the local entities having authority over water supply, management and potentially land use. SBCWA may be involved, at some level, in basins that are not required to comply with SGMA where entities may choose to implement it voluntarily. The SBCWA’s role in each basin may change in response to DWR’s on-going and developing SGMA guidelines or direction from your Board.

Staff will continue to pursue Proposition 1 grant funding and monitor for additional SGMA funding support moving forward.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
DWR Grant Funds			\$ 249,240.00
Water Agency funds			\$ 311,496.00
Federal Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 560,736.00

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

Costs for this fiscal year will be paid from existing funds in Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Program: 3016, Acct: 7460. The costs associated with this agreement and revenue from the grant are included in FY

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2016-17 proposed budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department. No General Fund monies will be utilized for this project.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send two (2) originals of the executed Agreement, a copy of the resolution, and a copy of the minute orders of these actions to the Water Agency office: Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Example of DWR's Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

Attachment B - Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Dudek w/contract summary

Authored by:

Fray A. Crease, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542