



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:  
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: PW/Water Agency/Flood Control

Department No.: 054

Agenda Date: July 1, 2025

Placement: Administrative Agenda

Estimated Time:

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
Board of Director, Water Agency  
Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**FROM:** Department Director: Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010  
Contact: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Flood Control, (805) 568-3436

**SUBJECT:** Authority to Submit Grant Applications for Flood Control, Water Agency, and Project Clean Water Projects for FY 2025-26, All Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Project Clean Water Manager or designee to seek and apply for clean water projects and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2025-2026; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

That the Board of Directors of the Water Agency:

- c) Authorize the Water Agency Manager or designee to seek and apply for water related projects and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2025-2026; and

- d) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

That the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District:

- e) Authorize the Deputy Director, Engineering Manager, Environmental Manager or designee to seek and apply for flood control, watershed management, fish passage projects, and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2025-2026; and
- f) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Flood Control, Water Agency, and Project Clean Water to apply for grant funding opportunities for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. These divisions of the Public Works Department are comprised of three distinct sections that include Flood Control, Water Agency, and Project Clean Water. These programs provide a wide range of services to the County and on an ongoing basis seek grant funding from federal, state, and other sources to continue to help maintain these services at their current levels.

**Discussion:**

Grant solicitations are often issued with a very short time for submitting applications. The timeframe often does not allow the divisions to obtain Board approval prior to applying. Approval of these recommendations would allow the divisions to apply for appropriate grants within the time constraints of the granting agencies. Staff would return to the Board for final approval, acceptance of funds if grant funding were awarded, and any other actions needed.

**Background:**

Since the inception of Santa Barbara County's Project Clean Water Program in 1999, the Water Resources Division has periodically obtained water quality and storm water management project grants from federal and state agencies. Funding through such grants has helped the County to provide projects and programs to protect public health and to enhance environmental quality in Santa Barbara County watersheds and beaches.

The Water Agency has obtained water conservation project grants for the Santa Barbara County's "Regional Water Efficiency Program" since the 1990s from federal and state agencies. Funding

through such grants has been an essential element in providing tools and programs to promote water conservation on a regional scale. As the lead agency on behalf of the cooperating partners for the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP), the Water Agency has applied for Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and most recently, Proposition 1 IRWMP grant funding that has resulted in bringing in over \$37 million to Santa Barbara County. The Water Agency has also obtained Proposition 1 planning grant funding for preparation of a Countywide Integrated Storm Water Resource Plan and Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant funding toward Groundwater Sustainability Agency development in the Cuyama and San Antonio Creek Valley Basins.

The Flood Control District has received several grants over the last several years for a variety of flood control and fish passage projects. Without grant funding, some of these projects would not have been financially feasible. Flood Control is requesting the authority to submit grant applications for flood control, watershed management, and fish passage projects. Most of these projects are included in the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). These projects are approved by the Board as part of the CIP and funding for these projects are also included in the adopted budget.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

These recommendations have no fiscal impacts at this time.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

If grant funding is awarded, we will return to your Board to approve the grant agreement and identify funding sources for the project at that time.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the minute order of these actions for Christina Lopez at [clopez@countyofsb.org](mailto:clopez@countyofsb.org).

**Contact Information:**

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