



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: 10/23/07
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency
FROM: Department Director: Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Contact Info: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436
SUBJECT: Cloud Seeding Program 2007-08

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: [X] Yes [] No [] N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: [X] Yes [] No [] N/A

Recommended Action(s):

- a) Concur with staff recommendation to suspend the regional cloudseeding program for this year;
b) In order to provide continuity in an essential equipment location, approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Lease Agreement for Monitoring and Generator Station with Rincon Broadcasting LLC. (formally Clear Channel Santa Barbara) for ground-based cloud seeding activities for the period of November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008 in the amount of \$1,200.00 per year;
c) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Lease Agreement for Monitoring and Generator Station with Mr. Earl Dolcini for ground-based cloud seeding activities for the period of November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008 in the amount of \$1,500.00 per year;
d) In order to provide continuity in an essential equipment location, 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, 2007 through October 31, 2008:
i) Community Radio Inc., in the amount of \$1,200.00;
ii) Young America's Foundation, in the amount of \$1,200.00;

Summary:

Santa Barbara County Water Agency has administered a cloudseeding program every year since 1981 except for 1987 after the Wheeler Fire burned a portion of the Upper Santa Ynez Watershed. The reason the program was not operated that year was because of concern of sediment and debris flux along with the expected benefit of increased runoff after the Wheeler Fire. In effect, although wildfires have destructive consequences, one positive aspect can be increased runoff, but only if it can be controlled. The Wheeler Fire burned mostly in Ventura County in the Matilija Watershed and burned only a portion of the Upper Santa Ynez Watershed. Since the Zaca Fire burned a much greater portion of the Santa Ynez River / Lake Cachuma Watershed as well as the Sisquoc and Cuyama Watersheds, Water Agency and Flood Control staff recommends suspension of the program this winter. Watershed conditions will be re-assessed after this winter and if the watersheds sufficiently recover, the

10/23/07

Page 2 of 3

program will be restarted next year. Since cloudseeding typically increases rainfall 10-15% in targeted areas, restarting the program when the watersheds have recovered will provide the maximum amount of benefit.

Existing land lease sites need to be renewed as they are very difficult to re-establish once lost. In the same manner new land lease agreements were recently drafted prior to the Zaca Fire and should be executed to secure those locations. Thus, the extensions of existing leases as well as contracts for recently re-negotiated sites should be executed.

Alignment with other River System interests and Safety concerns

As a standard practice, the Flood Control District retains final decision-making authority over all seeding operations for safety reasons. The California Department of Water Resources labels cloud seeding as a “safe and effective means of augmenting local water supplies”. Due to the increased runoff from the Zaca Fire, Flood Control and Water Agency staff recommends the County not operate the program this year.

Background:

The cloud seeding program uses state of the art methods accepted by the North American Interstate Weather Modification Council, Weather Modification Association and the 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 1981 except for 1987.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This program was included in the 2007-08 Adopted Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as identified on page D-318 in the budget book. The lease agreements will be paid from the Water Agency’s Cloud Seeding Program (3009), Water Agency Fund (3050), Lease line item account (7560). The remainder of this year’s funding for the Cloud Seeding Program will be rebudgeted next year for the 2008-09 program.

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	\$	5,100.00	
Total	\$	5,100.00	\$ -

Narrative:

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Cloud Seeding Program 2007-08

10/23/07

Page 3 of 3

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

Lease Agreement with for Monitoring and Generator Station with Rincon Broadcasting LLC (1 original)

Lease Agreement with for Monitoring and Generator Station with Earl Dolcini (1 original)

Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Community Radio Inc. (2 originals)

Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Young Americas (2 originals)

Copy of the minute order

Attachments: (list all)

Lease Agreement with for Monitoring and Generator Station with Rincon Broadcasting LLC (2 originals)

Lease Agreement with for Monitoring and Generator Station with Earl Dolcini (2 original)

Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Community Radio Inc. (3 originals)

Extension and Renewal Lease Agreement with Young Americas (3 originals)

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

cc: