

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 10/02/01
Department Name: Flood Control/Water
Agency/Public Works
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TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Santa Barbara County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436
Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager, Ext. 3542

SUBJECT: **Amendment to the Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources
Investigations with the United States Geological Survey, All
Supervisorial Districts**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to decrease the amount by \$22,500 for the cooperative streamgaging program from November 1, 2001 to October 31, 2002 at a cost to the Flood Control District of \$66,025 and to the Water Agency of \$198,580 for a total cost of \$264,605; and
- B. Authorize the Water Agency to reallocate the \$22,500 to pay for work to be done by Stetson Engineers and for the Project's Biologist costs for the overall fisheries monitoring program as identified in the Santa Ynez River Management Plan (Plan) and Biological Opinion issued by the National Marines Fisheries Services (NMFS) for steelhead for operation of Cachuma Dam.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 5. A High Quality of Life for All Residents and with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

As part of the Water Agency FY 2001-02 budget, \$100,000 was allocated for increased flow monitoring in the Santa Ynez River to support fish management activities. The \$100,000 was allocated pursuant to agreement between the Member Units and the Water Agency.

On October 16, 2001, your Board approved the Joint Funding Agreement among the Flood Control District, the Water Agency, and the USGS to provide for cost sharing in the water resources cooperative program in Santa Barbara County. This program primarily provides for streamgaging of certain rivers and creeks in the County.

As part of this year's USGS monitoring program additional work was identified to support the Santa Ynez River Management Plan (Plan) and for the Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning Steelhead and the operation of Cachuma Dam. This year's program included installing two new streamgage stations and reactivating a third station on the Santa Ynez River. These additional gauges would provide baseline information to assess if the recommended target flows that were identified in the Plan and the BO are being implemented, and to determine if any changes need to be made to provide additional benefit to the endangered steelhead. One of the new streamgages that was to be installed by the USGS at the Highway 154 Bridge will not be installed because of access problems at the location site (see Attachment A).

The HWY 154 Bridge location was selected by NMFS as a target flow location. To meet this requirement, the Cachuma Conservation Release Board has proposed an alternative method to calculate target flows (see Attachment B). The proposed alternative work consists of development and use of a hydrologic model using flow data from releases made at the dam and data collected at the existing Santa Ynez at Santa Ynez gauge, in lieu of taking actual stream flow measurements at the HWY 154 Bridge.

The work proposed by Stetson Engineers will consist of the following determinations:

1. Subflow at the location of the Highway 154 Bridge;
2. Seasonal consumptive use of phreatophytes along the SYR between Bradbury Dam and HWY 154; and
3. Historical groundwater dewatered storage associated with consumptive uses between the dam and HWY 154.

By decreasing the USGS agreement by \$22,500, the Water Agency can reallocate this amount to pay for this work with no increase in cost for the program. The cost of this work is approximately \$20,000 and the remaining funds will be used for the Project Biologist costs for the overall fisheries monitoring program.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no changes in programs or services level.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

These changes to the program will not result in any additional costs. These costs will be paid from the \$100,000 that is allocated annually from the Water Agency budget for projects associated with the Cachuma Project and pursuant to contracts between the Member Units and the Water Agency.

Costs from this program are included in the current Water Agency budget.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return all four originals of the agreement along with a copy of the minute order to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez. After the agreement has been executed by the USGS, staff will return a fully executed original to the Clerk of the Board.

Concurrence: County Counsel, Auditor-Controller

Attachments

Amendment No. 1 to the Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS

Attachment A – Letter from CCRB

Attachment B – Letter from USGS