



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Agenda Number:
AGENDA LETTER

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

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: April 11, 2017
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Director(s)
Contact Info: Robert Lewin, Director of Emergency Management
SUBJECT: **Resolution Approving Santa Barbara County's Drought Relief Projects Submittal
To Governor's Drought Task Force**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached Resolution which supports a proposal to the Governor's Drought Task Force of regional water projects that address the immediate drought emergency and the long-term sustainability of our water supply; and
- b) Direct staff to send Proposal and Resolution to the Governor's Drought Task Force, and a copy to State Senator Jackson, State Assemblymembers Limón and Cunningham, and to Cal OES; and
- c) Determine that this project was found by your Board to be exempt from the provisions of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b) (3) and 15269(a), and that the proposed actions are within the scope of the prior CEQA exemption.

Summary Text:

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency for Drought, and on the same day the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services proclaimed a Local Emergency for Drought. Governor Brown convened an interagency Drought Task Force to provide a coordinated assessment of the State's dry conditions and recommendations on current and future State actions.

On December 12, 2016, the Governor's Drought Task Force met in Santa Barbara with State Senator Jackson, Assemblymember Limón, local water purveyors, local elected officials and staff. The objective of the meeting was to begin the process of developing a list of regional priority water projects

that address the immediate drought emergency and the long-term sustainability of our water supply. The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) was appointed facilitator and directed to seek input and support of each local water agency. OEM convened an Action Working Group comprised of local water agencies, elected officials and county staff. On February 8, 2017, the Action Working Group issued the attached “Proposal to the Governor’s Drought Task Force” which contains the list of regional priority water projects. (Attachment B – Proposal)

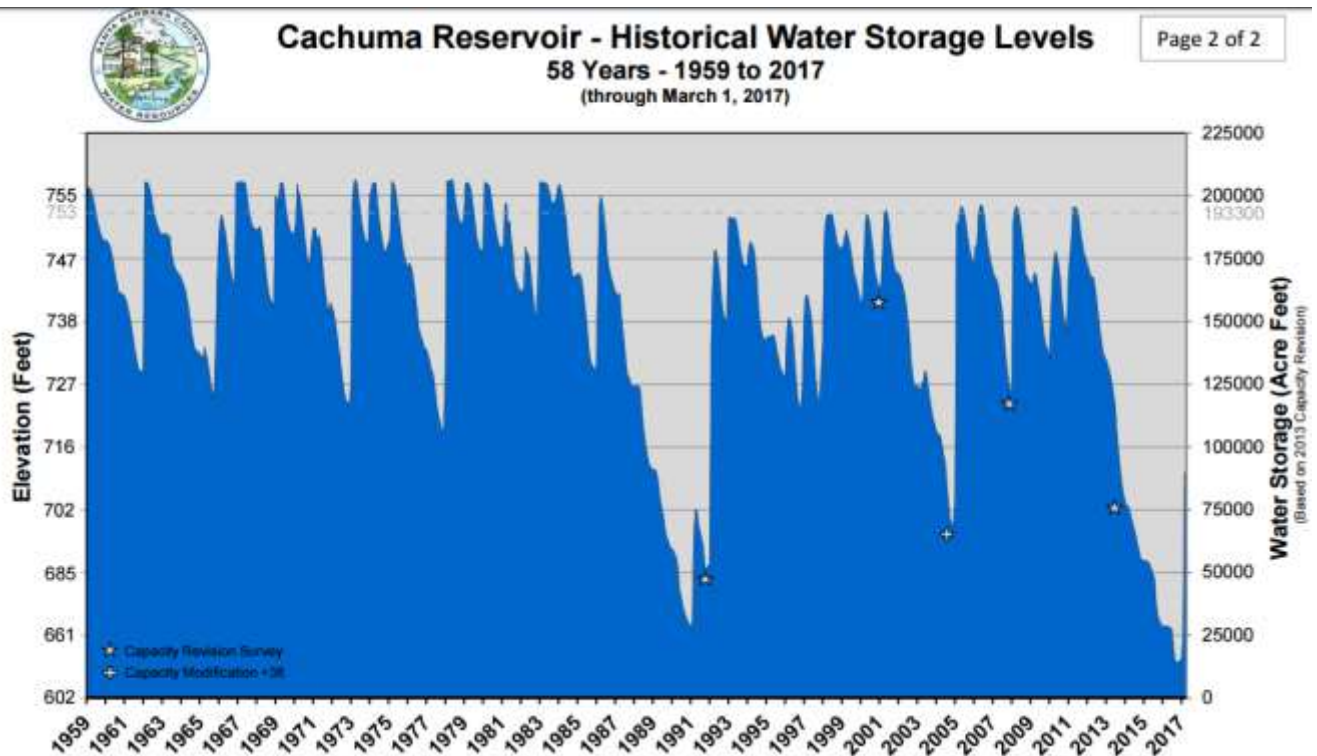
Background:

Recent storms have provided much needed water for our State. Although a good portion of the State is no longer in a drought, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County are still facing drought conditions and are in a D1 Moderate Drought.

Lake Cachuma provides 80% of the water supply for the South Coast. Winter storms have triggered significant inflow into Lake Cachuma. Rainfall this year is at 114% of normal. The inflow has increased the capacity to nearly 50% (from a low of near 7%). This percent capacity was last seen in October 2013, prior to the County proclaiming a drought emergency. As of March 19, 2017, Cachuma’s storage was at approximately 95,000 AF.

In 2015, the level of Lake Cachuma fell below the level needed for water to flow unassisted into Tecolote Tunnel requiring a pump barge facility be installed. That pump barge has recently been removed do to water level increases in the lake that allow for gravity feed into Tecolote Tunnel.

In recent history Santa Barbara County has experienced drought periods each decade, but none as exceptional as this one. Even if the following year produces enough rain to eliminate drought conditions in Santa Barbara County, the pattern of drought could again occur in the near future.



The project list developed by the Action Working Group includes projects which address the current drought and projects that address the sustainability of our long-term water supply. The following is a list of the recommended regional water projects:

Additional Water Supplies

- Reacquisition of Suspended Table "A" Water
- Recommissioning and Expansion of Regional Desalination Facility
- Water Reuse – Goleta
- Water Reuse – Carpinteria

Protection of Existing Resources

- Treatment Facilities for the Removal of Hexavalent Chromium from Groundwater
- Temporary Emergency Pumping System at Lake Cachuma
- Interagency Intertie Project between Goleta and Santa Barbara

These priority projects are described in the proposal and are supported by each of the local water agencies. Upon your Boards approval of the proposal, it will be forwarded to the Governor's Drought Task Force and copies will be sent to our local State Senator and Assemblymembers. Staff will continue to work with the Governor's Drought Task Force and local water agencies on the implementation of the listed projects.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No budgeted increases in budget have been made to participate in developing the proposal. The intention of the proposal is to ask the State for assistance, including fiscal assistance in implementing some or all of the projects.

Fiscal Analysis:

The County does not serve as a water purveyor and thus does not have fiduciary responsibilities to increase revenues to achieve completion of the projects proposed.

Staffing Impacts:

OEM and Public Works staffs have contributed to the proposal process.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the following:

Office of Emergency Management; ATTN: Sonia Thompson
Flood Control District office; ATTN: Christina Lopez

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution in Support of the Proposal to the Governor's Drought Task Force
Attachment B: Proposal to the Governor's Drought Task Force
Attachment C: Resolutions from agencies
Attachment D: Presentation to the BOS

Authored by: Robert Lewin, Director OEM, (805) 681-5532