



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: 08/19/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Water Agency

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Water Wise Landscaping CD-Rom Grant

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

Authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to execute the Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for an amount not to exceed \$32,206 and any and all future amendments or subsequent agreements for the production of a compact disk with information that encourages water conserving plant choices for local landscapes.

Summary Text:

On September 18, 2007, the Board concurred with this grant application to the USBR's Water Conservation Field Services Program. The Water Agency, as part of its Regional Water Efficiency Program, applied for this grant program, in partnership with eight local water purveyors, for the production of water wise gardening CDs tailored to Santa Barbara County.

Because the Water Agency was successful in its request to USBR, the Water Agency is now returning to the Board to authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to enter into the Assistance Agreement to accept grant funding for the project.

This project will help the Water Agency fulfill its obligations to meet the Best Management Practices as outlined in the California Urban Water Conservation Council's (CUWCC) Memorandum of Understanding, of which the County Water Agency is a signatory.

Background:

Landscape water efficiency is an important goal of the Water Agency’s Regional Water Efficiency Program. Landscaping is on average the number one residential water use, accounting for up to 50% of a residential water bill, and even more in warmer weather and in certain parts of the County. This project will make it easier for County residents to create beautiful water efficient landscapes that save water, energy, and money.

The grant allows for the production of a computer-based CD-ROM by the company GardenSoft, which has produced similar CD-ROMs for other areas in California. The customized CD-ROM will include Santa Barbara County garden examples, a customized plant database for the Santa Barbara County region, interactive features providing plant details, print-out reports, and irrigation tips. Approximately 8,000 CD-ROMs will be produced for distribution at public outreach events, by request from customers through a website ordering function, as part of class educational materials, etc. Water Agency and participating water purveyors will market the CD-ROM, offered free to the public, through existing marketing channels including newsletters, government access TV, and the website. Once production is complete, reprints of the CD-ROM will be possible in future years using the original materials. The grant will also allow for a plant database to be available on the Regional Water Efficiency Program’s water conservation website: www.sbwater.org for a 2-year period.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
USBR Grant	\$ 36,206.00		
water purveyors	\$ 16,169.00		
Water Agency funds	\$ 1,822.00		
Total	\$ 54,197.00	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

Grant funding from USBR for this project as well as the contract with GardenSoft was included in the Adopted Budget for FY 2008-09 under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department on page D-336 in the budget book.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of this action to the Water Agency office, attn: Christina Lopez

Attachments:

Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (copy)

Authored by: Len Fleckenstien, PW Program Specialist, 56803545

cc: