



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: 01/7/14
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 D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Program, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the countywide cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Program from November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014 in the amount of \$421,230 of which \$305,330 will be funded by the County Water Agency; and
- b) Find that the Cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Program is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines Section 15306, basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resources evaluation activities; and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.

Summary Text:

The countywide Joint Funding Agreement is an annual agreement between the Water Agency and the USGS that will provide for continuation of the cooperative water resources data collecting program in Santa Barbara County.

The program consists of stream gaging, groundwater elevation monitoring and surface and groundwater quality monitoring. The cooperative stream gaging program provides for the collection of flow data in strategic locations of selected creeks and rivers. The data collected is used for a variety of purposes including facilities design, flood warning, and water supply and climate studies.

Groundwater data collected in accordance with this program is used for monitoring basin changes and for detailed water supply and groundwater quality studies. Groundwater elevation data is used to fulfill State requirements for groundwater monitoring. Taken together, the data produced by this program is instrumental in guiding critical water management decisions.

The USGS produces an annual report for both surface and groundwater data collected and some of the data is made available in real time via the internet. The program is outlined in Attachment A.

The agreement period is November 1, 2013 through October 31, 2014. Although monitoring work has continued since November 1, 2013 this agreement has not yet been executed due to delays associated with the federal government's sequester.

Background:

Santa Barbara County has had a cooperative water resources data collection program with the USGS for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the Flood Control District allows understanding of complex local hydrological systems in our highly variable climate. The USGS has the personnel, equipment, technical expertise and credibility to collect quality data. In addition, the USGS has rigorous quality assurance and a publicly accessible data distribution system. The program directly benefits a wide range of local agencies and directly and indirectly the general public. This year's countywide program is similar to last year's in both percent cost share and total cost to the Water Agency.

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 Project Cost</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Federal USGS | \$ 115,900.00 | | |
| Water Agency | \$ 305,330.00 | | |
| Total | \$ 421,230.00 | | |

Narrative:

This program was included in the 2013-14 Adopted Budget under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-178 in the budget book. No General Fund monies will be utilized with these actions.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption and to send the following to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez:

- two originals of Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations
- copy of the minute order
- copy of the stamped CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachments:

Contract Summary

Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations - Countywide Program (3 originals)

Attachment A – Program Scope

CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by: Fray Crease, Senior Program Specialist, Water Agency, 568-3546