

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 03/25/02
Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: 4/16/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

FROM: Phillip Demery
Public Works Director

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

SUBJECT: Appointment to Warren Act Fund Committee

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Appoint the Public Works Director or his Designee to sit as the County Representative to the Warren Act/**Cachuma Contract Renewal Trust** Fund Committee.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

This action would meet Goals I (an efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community) and V (A high quality of life for all residents).

Executive Summary and Discussion:

When the State Water Project connection to Santa Barbara County (the Coastal Branch, Phase II) was completed, water for South-coast purveyors was delivered to Lake Cachuma. The water is then moved through the Tecolote Tunnel and distributed by the South-coast Conduit, which are elements of the Cachuma Project. Since the Cachuma Project is a federally owned facility, Congressional approval was required (the Warren Act) for use in delivery of State Water Project supplies. **In addition, the Cachuma Project Contract among the County, USBR and the Cachuma Member Units was renewed in 1996.** (As part of use fees paid to USBR **pursuant to each of these actions**, a fund was established to provide resources for improvements to the Cachuma Project and environmental enhancements (Attachment 1). Such projects were to be implemented pursuant to a five-year plan and annual allocations from the fund. In order to develop the five year plan and specific recommendations about potential projects, a committee was established which included representatives from the Cachuma Member Units and USBR as voting members with the County, **California Fish and Game** and US Fish and Wildlife Service as advisory members. Santa Barbara County replaced USBR as a voting member upon completion of the initial 5-year implementation period. That period is now complete and thus a formal appointment needs to be made by the County.

Typically the Committee meets twice a year, once in the late winter and again in the spring. Administrative support for the Committee is provided by the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (comprising the Cachuma member units). The Committee functions under state law governing open public meetings.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The source of funds for the Warren Act/Renewal Trust Fund is a matter of contract between the Member Units and USBR. Action by your Board would not change this mandate. Projects pursuant to the five-year plan focus on implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan. (Your Board approved a MOU relating to the plan in July 2001, so staff is already familiar with issues of County concern associated with implementation of that Plan.)

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The County has no fiscal commitment to the Warren Act/Renewal Trust Fund and the proposed action would not change that situation. Staff currently attends meetings the Committee as an advisory member. Attending the meetings as a full member may result in additional work to the extent that staff needs to bring issues to your Board for policy direction prior to action. At the current time, however, this does not appear to be a significant workload issue.