



**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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** PW/Water Agency/Flood Control  
**Department No.:** 054  
**Agenda Date:** June 23, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
Board of Directors, Water Agency  
Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**FROM:** Department Director: Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director  
Contact: Matt Griffin, Deputy Director – Flood Control and Water Resources

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**SUBJECT:** Authority to Seek and Submit Grant Applications for Flood Control, Water Agency, and Project Clean Water for FY 2026-27, All Supervisorial Districts

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Deputy Director or designee to seek and apply for clean water projects and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2026-27; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

That the Board of Directors of the Water Agency:

- c) Authorize the Deputy Director or designee to seek and apply for water related projects and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2026-27; and

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- d) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

That the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District:

- e) Authorize the Deputy Director or designee to seek and apply for flood control, watershed management, fish passage projects, and program grants from federal or state government agencies or other funding entities during FY 2026-27; and
- f) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and is therefore not a project under California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

**Summary Text:**

This item requests Board authorization for the Flood Control District, Water Agency, and Project Clean Water to pursue and submit grant funding opportunities for Fiscal Year 2026–27. These three divisions within the Public Works Department provide critical services throughout the County including flood protection, water resource management, and stormwater quality. To sustain these programs at current service levels, the divisions routinely seek grant funding from federal, state, and other external sources. Approval of this item will allow staff to continue applying for these funds as opportunities arise.

**Discussion:**

Grant solicitations are frequently released with very limited timeframes for submitting applications, often not allowing sufficient time for divisions to obtain prior Board approval. Authorizing these recommendations will enable the divisions to submit applications for eligible grant opportunities within the deadlines established by the granting agencies. Should any grant funds be awarded, staff will return to the Board for final approval, acceptance of funds, and any additional actions required.

**Background:**

Since the inception of Santa Barbara County’s Project Clean Water Program in 1999, the Water Resources Division has periodically obtained water quality and storm water management project grants from federal and state agencies. Funding through such grants has helped the County to provide projects and programs to protect public health and to enhance environmental quality in Santa Barbara County watersheds and beaches.

The Water Agency has obtained water conservation project grants for the Santa Barbara County’s “Regional Water Efficiency Program” since the 1990s from federal and state agencies. Funding through such grants has been an essential element in providing tools and programs to promote water conservation on a regional scale. As the lead agency on behalf of the cooperating partners for the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP), the Water Agency has applied for Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and most recently, Proposition 1 IRWMP grant funding that has resulted in bringing in over \$37 million to Santa Barbara County. The Water Agency has also obtained Proposition 1 planning grant funding for preparation of a Countywide Integrated Storm

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Water Resource Plan and Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant funding toward Groundwater Sustainability Agency development in the Cuyama and San Antonio Creek Valley Basins.

The Flood Control District has likewise obtained multiple grants in recent years for flood control improvements, watershed management, and fish passage enhancement projects. Many of these projects would not have been financially feasible without external grant funding. Most of the District's grant eligible projects are included in the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which has been approved by the Board, and corresponding project funding is reflected in the adopted budget.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The recommended actions do not have a direct fiscal impact at this time. If grant funding is awarded, staff will return to the Board for approval of the grant agreement, acceptance of funds, and identification of any required matching or project funding sources.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email the minute order of these actions to Christina Lopez at [clopez@countyofsb.org](mailto:clopez@countyofsb.org).

**Contact Information:**

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