



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:** 10/21/14  
**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

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**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, 2014 through October 31, 2015 in the amount of \$425,250 of which \$308,500 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, surface and groundwater quality monitoring, and groundwater elevation 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 the Joint Funding Agreement.

The agreement period is November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015.

**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:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total Project Cost</u></b>
Federal USGS	\$ 116,750.00		
Water Agency	\$ 308,500.00		
Total	\$ 425,250.00		

Narrative:

This program was included in the 2014-15 Adopted Budget under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-226 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)

CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:** Dennis Gibbs, Senior Hydrologist, Water Agency, 739-8781