



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: PW/Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: September 10, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control & Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Chris Sneddon, Public Works Director, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Flood Control (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: **Joint Funding Agreement for the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program,
All Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey to continue the countywide cooperative Stream Gauging Program from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 in the amount of \$434,410, of which \$331,790 will be funded by the Flood Control District; and
- b) Find that the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act 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:

This item is on the agenda in order to approve and authorize this annual countywide Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide for continuation of the cooperative water resources data-collecting program in Santa Barbara County.

The program consists of stream gauge measurements and monitoring. The cooperative stream gauging 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.

The USGS provides the County access to all of the data collected, with pertinent data made available in real time via the internet. The stream gauges included in the program are listed in the attachment of the JFA.

The term of this annual JFA is from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

Background:

The Flood Control District (District) has had a cooperative water resources data collection program with the USGS for decades. The data collected, combined with rainfall data collected by the District, allows for the 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 as well as the public.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	FY 2025/26 Cost	Total One-Time Project Cost
Federal USGS	\$ 98,955.00	\$ 3,665.00	\$ 102,620.00
Flood Control District F	\$ 301,125.00	\$ 30,665.00	\$ 331,790.00
Federal Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 400,080.00	\$ 34,330.00	\$ 434,410.00

Narrative:

The costs associated with this program are included in the adopted FY 2024-25 budget under the Flood Control District of the Public Works Department reflected on page D-334 in the budget book. The Flood Control District is funding \$331,790 (76.38%), while the USGS is funding \$102,620 (23.62%) over the agreement term, which overlaps between two fiscal years. The Flood Control District will incur costs of \$301,125 during FY 2024-25 and \$30,665 during FY 2025-26. Funding for this program will be included in the FY 2025-26 budget.

Funds for this agreement are budgeted in Dept 054, Fund 2400, Program 3006, Line Item Account 7460. No General Fund monies will be utilized for this program.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to post the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) and email to Christina Lopez @ clopez@countyofsb.org a copy of the signed JFA signature page and minute order.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resources Investigations with the USGS
includes contract summary
Attachment B - CEQA NOE

Authored by:

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