



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: 10/09/12
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 Agreements for the Cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Programs, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

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, 2012 through October 31, 2013 in the amount of \$416,730 of which \$300,830 will be funded by the County Water Agency;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to continue the cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Program in the Cuyama Valley from November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013 in the amount of \$43,000 of which \$25,050 will be funded by the County Water Agency;
- c) Find that the Cooperative Stream Gaging and Groundwater Monitoring Programs are exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines Section 15306 (Class 6) Basic data collection, research experimental management, and resource evaluation activities; and
- d) Approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis (POST).

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 Cuyama Valley Joint Funding Agreement will provide the same cooperative data collection but also includes portions of San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties.

The programs consist of stream gaging, groundwater elevation monitoring and surface and groundwater quality monitoring. The cooperative stream gaging programs provide 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.

In addition, two stream gages were put in place to assist with the Cuyama Groundwater Basin Study. Continued stream gaging will allow for greater understanding of recharge to the Basin and the gages are anticipated to be monitored for the next four years to augment the study. San Luis Obispo County is cost-sharing one of the two sites in the Cuyama Valley.

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 programs are outlined in Attachment A and B.

The attached Notice of Exemption will satisfy CEQA requirements for the cooperative Stream Gaging Programs.

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 identical 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	\$ 122,750.00		
Water Agency	\$ 325,880.00		
SLO County	\$ 11,100.00		
Total	\$ 459,730.00		

Narrative:

These programs were included in the 2012-13 Adopted Budget under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-144 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 Notice of Exemption and to send the following to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez:

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

Attachments:

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

Contract Summary

Attachment A – Program Scope

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

Contract Summary

Attachment B – Program Scope

CEQA Notice of Exemption

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