

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on:
Department Name: Water Agency/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04
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Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Director

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SUBJECT: Accept Grant Funds from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Concur with the Proposed Water Quality Improvement Grant Applications Under Proposition 13 Funding (Safe Drinking Water, Flood Protection, Watershed Protection, Clean Water and Water Recycling)

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors/Directors:

- A. Accept grant funds from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the County Water Agency for:
 - 1. Reprinting the brochure "Sustainable Landscaping: Resource Efficient Landscapes for the Central Coast" (\$5,700), and
 - 2. Implementing a Water Efficiency Advertising Campaign (\$15,000).
- B. Concur with applications to the State Water Resources Control Board for Proposition 13 grant funds to Project Clean Water for:
 - 1. The implementation of the Green Gardener Certification Program (\$73,000), and
 - 2. Continuation of the Santa Barbara Coastal Creeks Bioassessment Program (\$60,000).

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations align with Goal No. 5: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant Funds to Water Agency (Recommendation A)

Sustainable Landscaping Brochure and Water Efficiency Advertising Campaign:

The U.S. Bureau of reclamation funds projects annually through their Water Conservation Field Services Grants program. This year, they ended up with surplus funds and requested that County staff submit additional requests for funding. Without going through the typical application process, the Bureau was able to award additional funding to the County. A grant of \$5,700 was made to update and reprint the Sustainable Landscaping brochure. This locally developed brochure explains resource efficient landscaping practices,

and is distributed through the County's Regional Water Efficiency Program. In addition, the Bureau was able to provide \$15,000 in funding for multi-media advertising to increase awareness of wise water use in Santa Barbara County.

**State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 13 Grants to Project Clean Water
(Recommendation B)**

Proposition 13 grant funds are available for projects through the Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, for projects that "restore and protect the water quality and environment of coastal waters, estuaries, bays, and near shore waters and groundwaters". Project Clean Water submitted four preproposals to the program, and was selected to submit a full application for two of these projects. The full proposals are for 1) the Green Gardener Certification Program, and 2) Bioassessment Program for Santa Barbara Coastal Creeks.

Green Gardener Certification Program Proposal: (grant application in the amount of \$73,000)

The goal of the Green Gardener Certification Program is to offer education, training, certification and promotion of participating gardeners and landscape contractors in order to 1. To reduce nonpoint source pollution from landscape sites, 2. Improve resource efficiency, and 3. Improve the health, appearance and value of landscapes for customers and site managers. The program provides economic incentives to program participants, both gardeners and their clients. This innovative certification program, which was initiated in March 2000, offers a new educational tool to help local agencies further their shared goal of reducing pollution and promoting resource efficiency in the landscapes for the South Coast of Santa Barbara County (South Coast.)

Work to be performed under this grant includes:

- **Modular Curriculum Development:** Standardize the course curriculum to insure consistent and adequate training of gardeners. This will include the development of videos and other visual presentations, and increase parity between English and Spanish language materials. This standardization of the curriculum will allow the program to be easily transferred to other communities.
- **Course Administration:** This comprises staff time for administration and operation of the course, including coordination of instructors, class scheduling and organization. This covers fall and spring class sessions, offering both basic and advanced training.
- **Gardener Tools:** Certified Green Gardeners receive materials to enhance their education. These include a substantial course binder, and a soil probe. They also receive a certificate, hat, and card to identify them as Certified Green Gardeners.
- **Monitoring:** Four students, prior to certification, will be selected to be part of a targeted monitoring effort. Baseline water quality data on nutrients, pesticides and bacteria will be collected from runoff from landscape sites they maintain (two commercial and two residential landscapes), prior to implementation of Green Gardener practices. Water quality will then be monitored after implementation of Green Gardener practices. This monitoring will help to determine the impact of the Green Gardener Certification Program on water quality, and also determine modifications that should be made to make the program more effective.

Bioassessment Program Proposal: (grant application in the amount of \$60,000)

The purpose of this project is to continue the Santa Barbara County Coastal Creeks Bioassessment Program, a pilot program to monitor the health of coastal creeks in southern Santa Barbara County between Carpinteria and Gaviota. The Program focuses on the use of benthic macroinvertebrates (BMIs) as indicators of the overall health of local creek ecosystems. BMIs are aquatic insects, crustaceans, gastropods, and other invertebrates that inhabit aquatic environments. BMIs have proven to be reliable, cost-effective biological indicators of aquatic ecosystem health and water quality (Barbour, M.T., et. al., 1999). Numerous resource agencies endorse the use of BMIs as biological indicators, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the State of California Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

This project will coordinate with other regional water quality programs such as the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program, and water quality sampling programs run by local community groups such as Channel Keepers and Creek Watchers. BMI data will be analyzed and compared to data available from these other regional programs in an effort to determine correlations between BMI species abundance and water quality chemistry.

Work to be performed under this grant includes:

- **Bioassessment consulting services:** This includes field surveys, laboratory work to identify BMIs, calculation of physical creek parameters, and calculation of biological parameters. Data for the total four-year study period will be analyzed.
- **Report & Recommendations:** The report will include an analysis of the effectiveness of bioassessment as a long term monitoring tool, and a profile of locally endemic BMI species and their pollutant sensitivity.
- **Staff training/assistance:** County staff will assist the consultant and receive cross-training, so that in future years staff can carry out the bioassessment program independent of a consultant. Community members will also be invited to train and participate in the program on a volunteer basis
- **Brochure development/printing:** Information on the bioassessment program can be distributed through mailings, public events, and through the PCW Stakeholders Committee and other community groups.

Mandates and Service Levels:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant Funds (Recommendation A)

Staff time will be required to coordinate implementation of these projects and manage consultant/professional services contracts. Staff participation in this project meets objectives of the Regional Water Efficiency work plan. It also helps the County and local Bureau contractors meet USBR water efficiency requirements.

State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 13 Grants (Recommendation B)

Staff time will be required to coordinate implementation of these projects and manage consultant/professional services contracts. Staff participation in the Green Gardener Certification Program and the Bioassessment Program meets objectives of the Project Clean Water work plan. These programs also help the County meet NPDES Phase II permit requirements.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant Funds (Recommendation A)

The proposed budget for each project is shown below. USBR does not require matching funds; however, matching funds will comprise in-kind staff time. The City of Santa Barbara will also provide staff time to assist with landscape brochure revisions. In addition, both the City of Santa Barbara and the Water Agency will be contributing to the County-wide multi-media advertising campaign.

Sustainable Landscaping Brochure Reprint:

Update & revise brochure	\$1,200.00
• Graphic artist - 48 hours @ \$25/hour	
• Staff time: Make revision, supervise graphic artist	\$1,200.00(in-kind)
Print 5,000 brochures	\$4,500.00
Subtotal In-Kind	\$1,200.00
Subtotal Bureau grant funds.....	\$5,700.00
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost:	\$6,900.00

Water Efficiency Advertising Campaign:

• Consultant, Campaign Development.....	\$3,500.00
• 50 hours Water Agency staff time (coordinate production/program dev.)	\$3,750.00 (in-kind)
• Airing of Radio Ads.....	\$3,750.00
• Printing of Print Ads (newspapers).....	\$3,000.00
• Printing of Movie Ads (theatres)	\$1,500.00 (in-kind)
• <u>Printing/displaying 20 Bus ads</u>	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Subtotal In-Kind	\$5,250.00
Subtotal Bureau grant funds.....	\$15,000.00
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost:	\$20,250.00

State Water Resources Control Board Proposition 13 Grants (Recommendation B)

Proposition 13 grants require a 10% match. This match will be provided in both grant proposals by in-kind staff time and in the case of the Green Gardener program, existing program funds provided by other grants and program partners. Both of the Proposition 13 grants requests, if received, will fund ongoing programs. Therefore, staff time is already included in the Project Clean Water and Water Agency work programs for these projects.

Green Gardener Certification Program:

Modular Curriculum Development.....	\$20,000.00
Course Administration	\$30,000.00
Gardener Tools	\$6,000.00
<u>Monitoring.....</u>	<u>\$26,000.00</u>
Subtotal In-Kind	\$9,000.00
Prop. 13 funds requested	\$73,000.00
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost.....	\$82,000.00

Bioassessment Program:

Bioassessment consulting services	\$40,000.00
Report & Recommendations	\$20,000.00
Staff training/assistance.....	\$3,500.00 (in-kind)
<u>Brochure development/printing.....</u>	<u>\$3,000.00 (in-kind)</u>
Subtotal In-Kind:	\$6,500.00
<u>Prop. 13 funds requested</u>	<u>\$60,000.00</u>
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost.....	\$66,500.00