



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/Water Agency
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: July 12, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 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, (805) 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director – Water Resources (805) 568-3436

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Federal Bureau of Reclamation Grant Application for Regional Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program, All Supervisorial Districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors of the Water Agency:

- a) Adopt a Resolution to approve and authorize the Public Works Director or his/her designee to apply for and commit the Santa Barbara County Water Agency to the financial and legal obligations associated with receiving funding under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants* Program; and
- b) Find that these actions do not constitute “Projects” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 CCR 15378 (b)(4).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to adopt a resolution to approve and authorize the Public Works Director or his/her designee to apply for and commit the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (“Water Agency”) to the financial and legal obligations associated with receiving funding under the Federal Bureau of Reclamation (“Reclamation”) *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants* Program for regional *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program* (“Grant Project”).

Background:

The Water Agency is the master contractor for Reclamation’s Cachuma Project, which is a primary water supply source for parts of the County. Pursuant to this contract, the Water Agency coordinates a Regional Water Efficiency Program (“RWEP”), which was established in December 1990 to promote the efficient use of water supplies in the County, and to provide information and assistance to the 18 local water purveyors. The RWEP provides coordination for cooperative efforts among purveyors, acts as a clearinghouse for information on water efficiency, and regularly communicates with purveyors regarding efficient water use. Many of the RWEP’s activities fulfill the Water Agency’s obligations to promote Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) as identified by the California Water Efficiency Partnership and endorsed by Reclamation. The Water Agency last obtained a grant from Reclamation in 2014, which enabled the Water Agency to improve water efficiency and to build a collaborative regional water efficiency program in the County.

For this grant application, the Water Agency is partnering with participating water purveyors in Santa Barbara County to apply for funding to administer a regional *Water-Wise Landscape Rebate Program*. This Grant Project will offer rebates to participating water purveyors’ customers to increase water use efficiency in their landscapes, including high-efficiency and smart irrigation technology, water-wise landscape design, turf removal, and other landscape water conservation actions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Narrative:

If this grant is awarded by Reclamation, the Water Agency will include the grant funding in the FY 2023-24 Budget or bring a Budget Revision Request to the Board for approval, whichever is appropriate.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to email a copy of the resolution and minute order of these actions to clopez@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Resolution

Authored by:

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