



**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: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 10/14/14
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 2 hours
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No Vote Required

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department
Director(s)

Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, 568-3400

Contact Info:

Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436
Ryan Rockabrand, Director of Emergency Management, 681-5532

SUBJECT: Water Supply and Drought Update, All Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Receive a water supply and drought status report update from the County's Drought Task Force as a follow up to the June 17, 2014 report; and
- b) Receive any follow up information regarding water supply and drought measures from individual local water purveyors; and
- c) Determine that the proposed action is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b) (5), as it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On June 17, 2014, your Board received a report from the County Drought Task Force (DTF) regarding water supply conditions and the status of individual water purveyors. At that meeting, your Board directed staff to return to the Board to update water supply conditions and requested more detailed information on the following issues:

- Updated information on County Water Agency and other departments activities;

- Update on the Cachuma Pumping Project;
- Update on the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) Supplemental Water Supplies (purchases and exchanges);
- Status report on Groundwater Basins;
- A report from Environmental Health Services (EHS) on well permit issues and activities;
- An update on the Chromium 6 issue relating to water supplies;
- An update on Cachuma water releases for fisheries; and
- A State Legislative Update on water related bills including the Water Bond and Groundwater Regulation.

On September 9, 2014, your Board received a report from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding releases from Cachuma Reservoir for fisheries and an update from Governmental Advocates on State Legislative activities. Status on the remaining issues is as follows.

County Water Agency / County Family Activities

The County has implemented many initiatives relating to the Drought Emergency. These are summarized below:

Parks Department:

Parks has reduced watering by 30% and in some individual cases as much as 70%. Further reductions will be considered based on water supply and weather conditions as temperatures decline in the autumn and spring. In other water savings measures, Parks has shut down showers at the beach parks, posted signs at all parks regarding watering reductions, eliminated power washing of the Goleta Pier, and reduced washing frequency of Parks vehicles. In addition, conventional urinals will be replaced with waterless urinals during remodel.

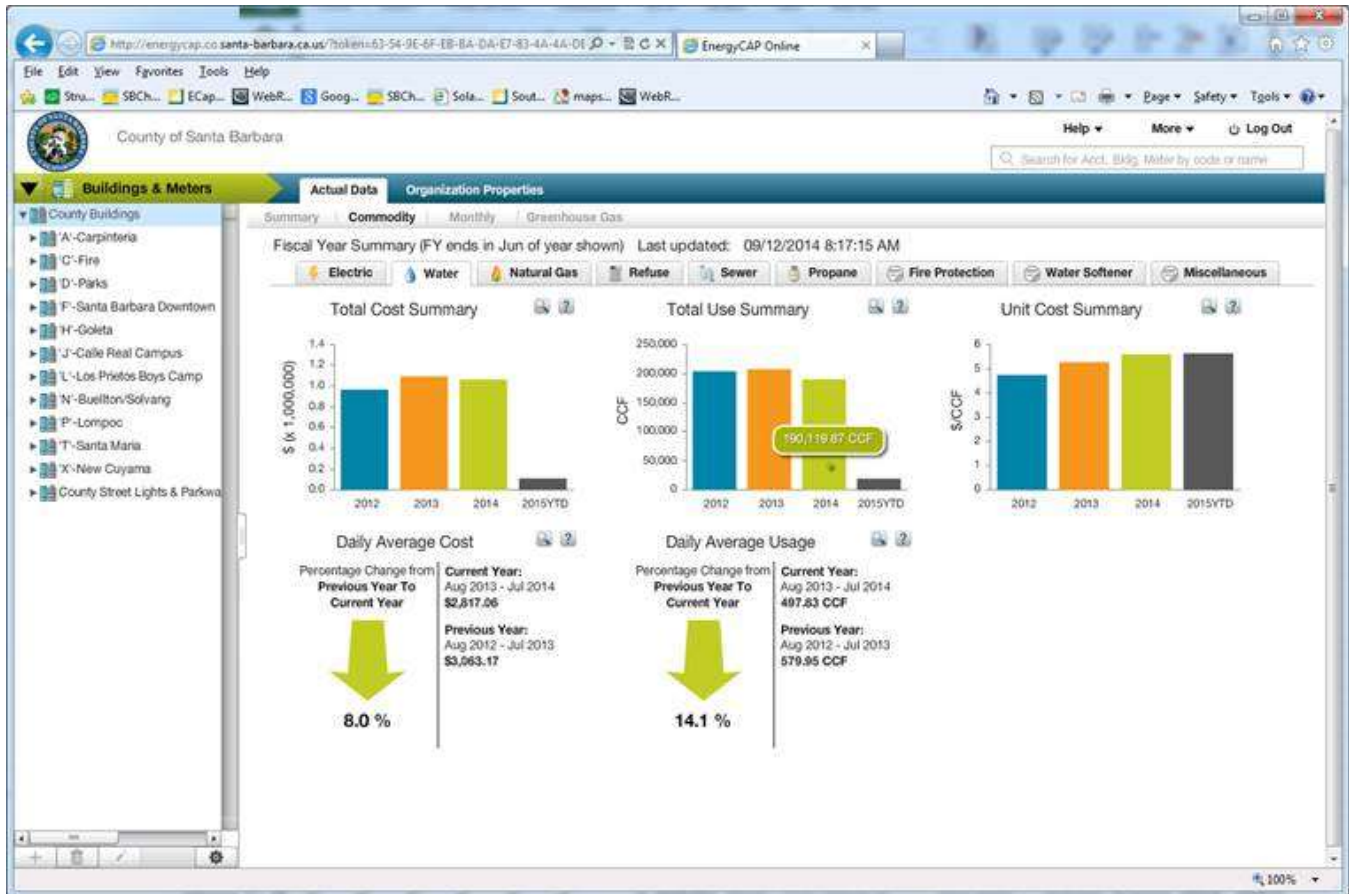
Environmental Health Services (EHS):

Attachment No. 1 is a report on well permit activity within the County from Environmental Health Services.

General Services:

General Services has reached out to all departments to let them know the current mandated and requested reductions throughout the County and let them know how departments are doing with the reductions of water. Currently the County's daily average is down 14.1% as noted in our ECAP program. The departments were also given ways to reduce the amount of water used by the departments and have been given access to the County ECAP program so they can look up an individual building or department.

http://energycap.co.santa-barbara.ca.us/ec_pass.aspx



General Services has reduced all irrigation systems maintained by GS by at least 30% and in some cases up to 100%. GS has also installed waterless urinals in the Administration and Engineering buildings. The Energy Manager continues to monitor the County's water use and when a high usage is noted, the department is notified so they can determine if the site has a leak.

Santa Barbara County Groundwater Basin Status:

As directed by your Board, the County Water Agency reports on the status of groundwater levels every 3 years. The last report was received by your Board on May 1, 2012 which covers the 3 year period of 2009, 2010, and 2011. However, your Board requested that staff accelerate a report on Groundwater Basins in the County, that report is included in Attachment No. 2

In summary, the impact of three consecutive dry years is evident in declining groundwater levels in many of the County's groundwater basins. This may be due to lack of recharge from surface water, increased extraction, or a continuation of existing trends. Only in some areas are recent measurements the lowest of record.

Basins in which selected wells exhibit water levels that are the lowest of record include the Buellton Uplands, Lompoc Uplands, Santa Maria, and Cuyama Groundwater Basins. Note that some of these Basins are thought to be in balance and the water levels observed may be an isolated occurrence.

New Groundwater Legislation:

Three recently enacted Groundwater Bills (SB 1168, SB 1319, and AB 1739) require management of all of the County's groundwater basins that are designated as high or medium priority by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR). Table 2 in the attached groundwater report lists the current priority level of the County's groundwater basins. Although the legislation was signed by the Governor, there remain many areas of uncertainty and supplemental regulation is required in the Groundwater Bills. Staff will return to the Board with information regarding options and recommendations for local basins once the additional information is released.

External Agency Reports

The Board has asked for updates on the following topics:

Cachuma Pumping Project:

The Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) has worked diligently to design a pump system at Cachuma Lake to allow for continued deliveries to the South Coast if water levels were to fall below the level for gravity feed. The Emergency Pump Project became fully operational on August 18, 2014 and included some sediment removal from the inlet tower to Tecolote Tunnel that will allow a longer period of gravity feed as well. As Cachuma continues to lower, and in the event that no significant inflow occurs this winter, the Pumping Project will allow continued delivery of Cachuma Project Water and State Water Project (SWP) deliveries.

CCWA Supplemental Water Report:

On August 26, 2014, your Board approved a water exchange with the Mojave Water District which will provide an additional 1,000 AF of water. CCWA has been moving water into Cachuma Reservoir at full capacity since January. CCWA has moved a combination of the previous year's carryover water, newly acquired supplemental water, and the State Water Project (SWP) 5% allocation for 2014.

CCWA Member	Supplemental (AF)	Carryover (AF)	5% Table A (AF)	Total (AF)
City of Guadalupe	0	26	30	56
City of Santa Maria	0	868	891	1,759
Golden State Water Co.	0	46	28	74
Vandenberg AFB	0	2,356*	303	303
City of Buellton	0	67	32	99
Santa Ynez ID #1 (Solvang)	628	395	75	1,098
Goleta WD	0	4,033	373	4,406
La Cumber Mutual Water Co.	150	868	55	1,073
City of Santa Barbara	2,984	2,634	165	5,783
Montecito WD	2,148	1,397	165	3,710
Carpinteria Valley WD	0	519	110	629
Total:	5,910	13,210	2,227	21,347

***Note: 1,659 AF of VAFB Carryover was provided to other members as a local transfer.**

As requested by the Board, staff requested a report from CCWA on total water deliveries from the SWP since the SWP came to Santa Barbara County and the total costs paid. To date, staff has not received this information from CCWA.

Chromium 6 Report:

The State of California recently lowered the Chromium 6 standards to 10 ppb for drinking water which has impacted the Santa Ynez Upland Groundwater Basin supply. The recent release of approximately 4,500 acre feet of Cachuma water in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Rights Decision 89-18 was in part the result of the need for a source of water with no concentration levels of Chromium 6 to offset the loss of supply from the ID No.1 Upland ground water wells. Managers from both the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ID1 and the Santa Ynez River Valley Water Conservation District (Parent District) will report on the status of impacts to district supplies.

Water Purveyors:

Attachment No. 3 includes drought status information from the purveyors that provided the information. Finally, deliveries from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast continue to be tracking below past years. Combined with constant inflow of SWP deliveries, Cachuma's lake level is falling slower than a typical summer. In this past August, deliveries were 1,000 AF less than the prior two years.

Background:

Santa Barbara County's climate is subject to both wet and dry extremes. Rainfall records since the late 1800s show exceptionally dry periods lasting seven years or more. Prior to the current drought, the most recent of these occurred from 1986 to 1991, a period during which many of the County's primary water supplies were nearly exhausted.

The County now passed its third consecutive dry year with rainfall totals only about 40% of normal for the year. This follows on the heels of two very dry years prior. Many local water supplies are very low and imported water supplies are greatly reduced due to the impacts of the drought which is occurring statewide. On January 17, 2014, the Governor of California proclaimed a State of Emergency and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors declared a drought emergency on January 21, 2014. Subsequently, the Governor signed a second emergency proclamation on April 25, 2014 to reinforce the importance of the ongoing drought conditions.

The 2013/14 Winter resulted in enough precipitation to restore a 5% delivery of the State Water Project (previously 0% delivery). While storms in March and April improved conditions slightly in Northern California, local conditions did not improve. As such, Cachuma received no appreciable inflow this past winter. Upstream of Cachuma, Gibraltar and Jameson Reservoirs received some minimal inflow but insufficient to change the supply status.

Although water conservation is an ongoing focus in Santa Barbara County, there has been significant effort at both the County and water purveyor levels to address the worsening water shortages and prepare for an extended drought. In addition to proclamations encouraging or requiring increased conservation, water providers are pursuing emergency water supply projects and additional water supply sources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative:

This hearing is to receive reports from the County's Drought Task Force and the local water purveyors regarding water supply and drought conditions. This is a follow up meeting to the June 17, 2014 meeting and is an informational hearing only no action is required by the Board at this time.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

EHS Well Permit Activity Report (Attachment No. 1)

County of Santa Barbara Groundwater Basin Status Report (Attachment No. 2)

Drought Status Information from Participating Water Purveyors (Attachment No. 3)

Authored by:

Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436