



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:** September 15, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Water Agency

**FROM:** Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 805-568-3010  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 805-568-3436

**SUBJECT:** San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study, Third, Fourth and Fifth Supervisorial Districts

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 6 to the Joint Funding Agreement #15WSCA600081610\_06 with the United States Geological Survey to extend the end date one-year to October 31, 2021 with no additional cost to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency; and
- b) Determine that the amendment to the agreement for the San Antonio Groundwater Study is exempt under California Environmental Quality Act guidelines, Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15306 (Class 6 Information Collection) as previously approved by the Board on November 4, 2014:  
<https://santabarbara.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1940549&GUID=F61F7286-71F1-431B-8A55-561FDD88ADAA>.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for approval of Amendment No. 6 to the Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to extend the contract end date by a year to finalize the San Antonio Groundwater Basin Study.

The San Antonio Groundwater Basin serves as the sole source of water to meet the agricultural and municipal needs of the greater Los Alamos Valley. The basin also augments Vandenberg Air Force

Base's (VAFB) water supply, which includes State Water. The Water Agency is working in cooperation with the San Antonio Creek Valley Consultation Committee and contracted for this study with the USGS in 2014. VAFB is also a partner in this study.

### Study Update

The study consists of five main tasks, which include: (1) data compilation, (2) new data acquisition, including an assessment of water quality and groundwater/surface water interactions, (3) model development, (4) analysis of water availability, and (5) report preparation. Tasks 1-2 are complete. Tasks 3, 4, and 5 are in process and anticipated to be completed during this agreement period including the completion, review, and publication of the following:

- Final calibration and documentation of the integrated hydrologic model (Task 3)
- Analysis of water availability using historic hydrologic data and the integrated hydrologic model (Task 4)
- Writing, review, and final publication of four USGS products (Task 5):
  - Geohydrologic framework scientific journal article
  - Hydrologic characterization Scientific Investigations Report
  - Integrated hydrologic model Scientific Investigations Report
  - Project summary web page

The culmination of this project will be a detailed report and fact sheet on current and future water availability in the San Antonio Groundwater Basin under current and future cultural and climatic scenarios. This project will provide a valuable tool for the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for this basin due to the Department of Water Resources by 2022 as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

### **Background:**

The San Antonio Creek Valley is located in western Santa Barbara County about 15 miles south of Santa Maria and 55 miles north of Santa Barbara. Land in the San Antonio Creek Valley is used primarily for agriculture. Historically, the upland parts of the Valley have been used for dry farming or pastureland and the flatlands along the streams for irrigated farming.

Significant changes in land use have occurred since the San Antonio Groundwater Basin was last comprehensively studied in the early 1980s. Since then, large sections of formerly non-irrigated pastureland in the upland parts of the Valley have been converted to irrigated vineyards. Data has thus far been limited in the uplands but in some areas, there have been water level declines of over 50 feet since the early 1980s. The western quarter of the Valley is owned by VAFB and they have agreed to participate in the project with a discrete level of funding and interaction.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal or financial impacts to Santa Barbara County Water Agency. The project timeline is being extended with no additional costs required.

**Key Contract Risks**

The key contract risks for this agreement are low.

**Special Instructions:**

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of this action and one original of Joint Funding Agreement to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Amendment No. 6 to the Joint Funding Agreement #15WSCA600081610\_06 with contract summary (2 originals)
- Attachment B: Copy of Original Joint Funding Agreement (2014)

**Authored by:**

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