



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** June 17, 2014

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Adoption Of Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Water Management Plan

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Adopting the 2013 Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

### **DISCUSSION:**

State grant programs increasingly require an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) as a prerequisite for obtaining funding for water related projects. The State uses the plans to promote State water policies and optimize the allocation of grant funding to the various regions of California. In June 2007, Council adopted the 2007 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). In accordance with State requirements, the IRWMP needs to be revisited and updated periodically. Over the past two years, City staff, in cooperation with the 28 other Cooperating Partners in Santa Barbara County, worked with a consultant to update the IRWMP. The Cooperating Partners include the Santa Barbara County Water Agency as the lead, and virtually all of the government agencies, water districts, and sanitation districts in Santa Barbara County.

### **Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP**

The 2013 IRWMP is a comprehensive update of the 2007 Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP, which describes the region's water management setting, history, challenges, goals, objectives and strategies. It builds on local water and resource management plans from the region and was developed with input from an array of water management stakeholders. The IRWMP provides a mechanism for stakeholders to collaborate on local water issues and challenges, and effectively implement water management projects that achieve regional water management objectives.

The IRWM Plan 2013 objectives include:

- Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies
- Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies
- Practice balanced natural resource stewardship
- Protect and improve water quality
- Improve flood management
- Improve emergency preparedness
- Maintain & enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability
- Address climate change through adaptation and mitigation
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits

The Environmental Analyst has determined that adoption of the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### Next Steps

Upcoming grant opportunities related to IRWMP include Proposition 84 funds. Proposition 84 originally included \$52 million for Integrated Regional Water Management in the Central Coast funding area, consisting generally of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as some separate funding for flood control. Several grants have been awarded under Proposition 84, including Round 1 and Round 2 Implementation Grants. Currently, there is \$19 million in funding left for the Central Coast funding area.

In response to recently enacted drought-related legislation, the Santa Barbara County IRWMP Coordinator solicited projects for consideration and combined them in the 2014 Drought Solicitation Application for California Department of Water Resources funding. Several projects, including the City's Rehabilitation of the Gibraltar Silt Wells Project, have been incorporated into the IRWMP as an addendum to the Project List. The Rehabilitation of the Gibraltar Silt Well Project has been selected by the Santa Barbara County IRWM Steering Committee for inclusion in the Drought Solicitation Application.

Assuming funding remains within the funding region, following the award of the Drought Grant Solicitation, additional funds for projects will be available under a Round 3 Implementation Grant Solicitation, and are expected to be released in summer 2015.

The final Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP and appendices are available for public review at the City Clerk's Office, on the [IRWM Website](http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp) ([www.countyofsb.org/irwmp](http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp)) and are available in the Mayor and Council reading file.

**PREPARED BY:** Joshua Haggmark, Acting Water Resources Manager/DC/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office