



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 540.05

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 7, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving Application For Water Smart Grant Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Public Works Director to Submit an Application, Execute a Grant Agreement in a Form Approved By the City Attorney, and Take Other Actions as May Be Necessary for City Participation in the United States Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Grant Program, With a City Matching Contribution Not to Exceed \$55,000.

DISCUSSION:

Ongoing water conservation efforts are requirements of State mandates for water use reduction and to preserve the City's eligibility for State grants and low-interest loans. Increased water conservation is also a key component of the City's recently adopted Long-Term Water Supply Plan. To assist with these efforts, staff is pursuing grant funding through the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart Grant Program, which provides funding to water purveyors for projects that promote water conservation, particularly in the areas of metering and water management.

Water Resources staff has applied for \$55,000 of matching contribution grant-funding for a total project amount of \$110,000. The funding will be used for a pilot project that focuses on water conservation through improved water metering and enhanced customer awareness. The project will also be designed to reduce distribution system losses through real-time data collection. The proposed project location is a relatively small well-defined water zone with one metered input and 54-metered outputs (water customers). The customers in this zone account for approximately 1% of the City's single-family residential water use.

Approximately \$20,000 of the grant funding will be used to purchase 54 automated meters and supporting equipment. The remaining \$90,000 will be used for system installation and operation, extensive public outreach to the customers in the project

area, professional support for the creation of a web interface and data hosting site, and the necessary staff time for managing the project.

Customers will be offered web access and/or in-home devices which will provide real-time water consumption information to assist them with identifying specific water-saving possibilities. Customers will also be able to sign up to receive email or text message notifications if a leak is detected on their properties. In the event that a customer is uninterested in participating in the pilot project, their water meter will be upgraded with an automated meter, but the customer will not receive any digital notification regarding their water consumption, and the program will continue without their participation.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Staff anticipates a maximum project cost of up to \$110,000, with a City's matching contribution of 50%, or \$55,000. The City's contribution is anticipated to be largely through in-kind contributions of staff time but, if needed, there are sufficient funds in the Water fund for this project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The pilot project will demonstrate the effectiveness of automated meter reading with regard to improving water management and promoting water conservation. The project will also provide the City with a new and innovative method for helping to meet State mandates for water-use reductions.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager/TL/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office