



Agenda Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

File Code No. 540.08

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** May 15, 2012

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Of Water From Carpinteria Valley Water District

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to purchase up to 600 acre feet of Cachuma Water from the Carpinteria Valley Water District at a cost of \$150 per acre foot (\$90,000).

### **DISCUSSION:**

In June 2011, the City Council adopted an updated long-term water supply plan. An important element of the plan is to manage the City's water supplies to avoid the need for desalination water until the sixth year of a drought. In order to defer the need for the desalination plant, it is necessary to develop a reserve of water. This is partially accomplished by encouraging conservation and saving unused annual allocations of water for future use. It also requires the purchase of additional water as drought supplies.

Typical annual water demand is 14,000 acre feet. An acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons and is typically enough to support three families for a year. At this time, the City has approximately 5,000 acre feet of water in reserve at Cachuma. Purchasing the water from the Carpinteria Valley District will add to this reserve and offers an insurance policy for the City should this year's dry weather extend into a lengthy drought.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The cost of this water compares favorably to other supplies. For instance, State Water costs approximately \$250 per acre foot delivered to Cachuma. There are adequate funds in the City's Water Fund budget for this purchase.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Developing a reserve account of water for use during a drought delays the need to activate the energy intensive desalination plant.

This item is scheduled for presentation to the Board of Water Commissioners on May 14, 2012. If the Board does not support the water purchase, the item will be removed from the Council agenda.

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manage/RB/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

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