



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 540.08

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 17, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving Application For Local Groundwater Assistance Grant

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 a Groundwater Management Plan Grant Application in an amount of \$250,000 and Execute an Agreement With the California Department of Water Resources Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara (City) maintains eight municipal supply wells which draw from two groundwater basins known as Storage Unit 1 and the Foothill Basin. Groundwater supplies contribute approximately 10 percent of the overall water supply portfolio. They are a vital element of the City's supply, particularly in the event of catastrophic failures of Mission and/or Tecolote Tunnels, which transport Santa Ynez River water to the City.

The City's Long-Term Water Supply Plan, adopted in 2010, as well as the City's Urban Water Management Plan, also adopted in 2010, indicates the City's commitment to preparing a Groundwater Management Plan, per State legislation outlined in AB 3030. The required elements of AB 3030 include control of saline water intrusion, regulation of migration of pollutants, facilitation of conjunctive use, wellhead protection, and coordination with regulatory agencies and other stakeholders within the groundwater basins. While the City is already undertaking these efforts, the individual elements have yet to be coordinated into a single policy document, which is the purpose of the proposed Groundwater Management Plan. It is anticipated that the Groundwater Management Plan will be prepared and presented to Council for adoption by July 2014.

The purpose of the California Department of the Water Resources Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Program is to provide funding to conduct groundwater studies or to carry out groundwater monitoring and management activities. If the City's application is successful, the Local Groundwater Assistance grant will provide funding needed for the preparation of a City wide Groundwater Management Plan, as well as investigation of water quality and quantity issues within the Foothill Basin. Adoption of a resolution authorizing application for the grant is a required part of the grant application.

Staff anticipates applying for the full grant award amount of \$250,000. City contribution is not required to apply for grant funds through this program.

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

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office