



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 28, 2017

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving Santa Barbara County's Drought Relief Projects Submittal To The State

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, a Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Approving the City of Santa Barbara's Support of the Santa Barbara County's Governor's Drought Task Force Letter and Project List Developed by Local Water Agencies, and Include in Distribution the State Senate, State Assembly, and Cal OES Office.

DISCUSSION:

As California emerges from a record-breaking drought, Santa Barbara County remains one of only two counties in the state that is still experiencing exceptional drought. While recent rains in Northern California have sent rivers over their banks, filled reservoirs, and reduced or eliminated the severity of the drought for 98 percent of the State; locally, Lake Cachuma's water supply remains critically low, and groundwater basins throughout the County are showing signs of stress. The severe drought conditions that persist in Santa Barbara County continue to threaten the region's ability to maintain public health and safety for residents as we enter a sixth year of exceptional drought.

While water agencies across Santa Barbara County have done much to diversify and secure their water supply sources over the past 30 years, this drought has made clear the need to further develop drought resilient local water sources. Additionally, while simultaneously enhancing and securing existing supply sources and infrastructure, communities in the County have led the State in conservation through the entire drought, in many cases conserving up to 45 percent. The strain on the rate payers has been significant. To this end, Santa Barbara County water agencies have developed a unified regional plan to improve the ability of Santa Barbara County to get through this current continuing drought emergency, and to plan for the next drought. Together, we have developed a diverse suite of projects that provide new water supplies for agencies across the County, that increase water supply reliability, and that take prudent steps to secure infrastructure critical to our ability to continue delivering safe drinking water

during the current emergency. Below is a list of projects that has been endorsed by local water agencies. The proposed projects address Water Supplies and Protection of Existing Resources:

- *Reacquisition of Suspended Table "A" Water* – will allow for additional deliveries of water to Santa Barbara County at times when State Water allocations are less than 100% and are most needed by the region.
- *Recommissioning and Expansion of Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant* – a drought-proof project that will recognize the desalination plant as a regional facility.
- *Comprehensive Water Reuse – Goleta* – a drought-proof project that will inject treated wastewater into the local aquifer.
- *Comprehensive Water Reuse – Carpinteria* - a drought-proof project that will inject treated wastewater into the local aquifer.
- *Treatment Facilities for the Removal of Chromium 6 from Groundwater* – will regain local ground water by removing Chromium 6 from the groundwater supply.
- *Lake Cachuma Emergency Pumping Facility System* – will maintain operation of the temporary Emergency Pumping System at Lake Cachuma during the drought by providing for maintenance, relocation, and possible purchase of the facility.
- *Interagency Intertie Project between Goleta and Santa Barbara* – will provide an emergency water supply via an intertie between the City of Santa Barbara and Goleta Water District.

The above-listed projects will ensure existing water supplies and infrastructure are available to serve the residents and visitors to Santa Barbara County. While they do not provide new water supplies, they either ensure the delivery of current supplies will continue uninterrupted, or provide water treatment to satisfy health and safety concerns. Failure to proceed with these projects will either require additional new water sources from elsewhere, place additional strain on already scarce shared resources, or result in an inability to supply water to residents and critical facilities. The Governor's Drought Task Force Letter and Project List is available for public view in the City Clerk's Office.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The intent of this effort is to make state legislators aware of the difficulties Santa Barbara County is having with responding to the persistent drought conditions.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Drought-relief related projects will help ensure Santa Barbara County will continue to provide safe uninterrupted drinking water supplies to local water ratepayers.

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