



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 2, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Memorandum Of Understanding – Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Administration And Proposition 50

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Administration of Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Proposition 50 Round 2 Step 2 Grant Application, with a City share of ongoing IRWMP administrative expenses not to exceed \$1,500.

DISCUSSION:

On August 1, 2006, the City Council approved participation in an MOU for the preparation of an IRWMP for the Santa Barbara region. Such a plan is increasingly required as a pre-condition of receiving State grant funds. The City adopted the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP on June 26, 2007. Virtually all public agencies in the Santa Barbara County with water related responsibilities (the “Cooperating Partners”) approved the plan as well.

The timing of the plan’s preparation was driven by the application schedule for Round 2 of the State’s Proposition 50 IRWMP grant funding cycle. The scope of the original MOU ended with the adoption of the plan, which was submitted to the State on July 31, 2007 as Step 1 of the Round 2 process.

The recommended MOU would provide for sharing the costs associated with ongoing administration of the IRWMP process by the County Water Agency and preparation of the detailed application for Step 2 of the Proposition 50, Round 2 grant process. All Cooperating Partners are encouraged to continue their participation in funding the

REVIEWED BY: _____Finance _____Attorney

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relatively minor expenses associated with the ongoing IRWMP administration effort. With regard to the more substantial costs associated with preparation of the Step 2 grant application, the MOU would provide that agencies with projects proposed for Proposition 50 funding (“Project Proponents”) pay all of these costs.

At this time, we expect the City’s share of the MOU costs to be limited to the IRWMP administration costs, since neither the City’s Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project nor other City projects identified in the IRWMP are currently included in the list of proposed projects for Proposition 50, Round 2 grant funding. However, it is possible that there will be prioritization changes or that other projects on the list will drop out. In that case, staff will return to Council for authorization, as necessary, to allow the City to quickly join the application process in order to meet the January 2008 submittal deadline. This would be for the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, if there is available funding in the application package for the \$2.5 million grant request associated with this project. If not, another City project identified in the IRWMP might be added to the list, determined on the basis of available funding and eligibility of the project. Following is a list of the City projects in the adopted IRWMP:

- Airline Terminal Water Efficiency and Storm Water Management
- Airport Recycled Water Supply
- Airport Sewer Repair and Replacement
- Andree Clark Bird Refuge Water Quality and Habitat Enhancement Project
- Braemar Sewer Extension Project
- Cater Water Treatment Plant – Advanced Treatment Project
- Corporation Yard Well Replacement
- Desalination Modernization Project
- El Estero Aeration Blower Replacement Project
- El Estero Swale Restoration Project
- Elings Park Solid Waste Assessment Test/Corrective Action Plan
- Goleta-Santa Barbara Interconnect at Sterrett Avenue
- Las Positas Storm Water Management Project
- Lower Mission Creek Flood Control and Rehabilitation Project
- Old Mission Creek Storm Water Management and Restoration Project
- Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant Reconstruction
- Out-of-City Sewer Extension Project
- Phase 3 Recycled Water System Expansion
- Potential Phase 3 Recycled Water System Expansion
- Recycled Water Quality Improvement Project
- Stearn’s Wharf Commercial Buildings Sewer Pipe Replacement
- Sycamore Creek Rehabilitation Project
- Upper Mission Creek Flood Management and Habitat Improvement Project
- Water Conservation Program
- Watershed Invasive Plant Removal

On September 10, 2007 the Water Commission voted to concur with the recommendation.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Costs to date associated with ongoing IRWMP administration have been split between the Creeks Division and the Water Resources Division. For the current MOU, these are not expected to exceed \$1,500. In the event the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project or another City project become active projects for the Step 2 application, funding will be identified in the appropriate City program and authorization to pay the required grant application expenses will be recommended, as necessary.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

There is no direct sustainability impact associated with this action, except that, to the extent the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project is included, a number of environmental and flood control improvements can be expected as a part of that project.

PREPARED BY: Steve Mack, Water Resources Manager/BF

SUBMITTED BY: Anthony J. Nisich, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office