



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 16, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Authorization For Bathymetric Survey Of Gibraltar Reservoir

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to MNS Engineers, Inc. (MNS), for completion of a bathymetric survey of the Gibraltar Reservoir for an amount not to exceed \$27,460.

DISCUSSION:

The City owns and operates the Gibraltar reservoir which provides approximately 35% of the City's water supply through the Mission Tunnel. The reservoir is slowly filling up with silt. Every three years a bathymetric survey is conducted to determine how much additional silt has been deposited in the reservoir and how much capacity remains. Bathymetry is the measurement of the depths of water bodies from the water surface. The survey is conducted by using specialized instruments to measure the depth of the lake at various locations and then map the new lake floor. The last bathymetric survey was conducted in 2004. This year's survey is particularly important as the Zaca Fire has burned more than 60% of the Gibraltar watershed and there is a potential for significant debris flow into the reservoir. Staff is identifying alternatives to limit the flow of silt and debris into the reservoir. Conducting the bathymetric survey ahead of the rains will provide important information about the effect of the Zaca Fire on this reservoir.

MNS has conducted the bathymetric surveys at Gibraltar for the past 15 years. As a result, they have the historical data to allow comparisons to previous surveys readily available. MNS is one of the City's five-year engineering consultants. They have submitted an acceptable proposal in the amount of \$27,160. Staff is requesting \$300 in change order authority to cover any unanticipated expenses.

REVIEWED BY: _____Finance _____Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City routinely conducts a bathymetric survey every three years. The last survey was conducted in 2004. This project was anticipated and there is adequate money in the Water Fund to cover this cost.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Developing and managing the City's water supply allows for planning to mitigate the affects of drought. The bathymetric survey helps to plan for efficient use of the City's water supply.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager/RB/mj

SUBMITTED BY: Anthony J. Nisich, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office