



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

File Code No. \_\_\_\_\_

# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 2, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Intent To Accept Real Property At The City's Hydroelectric Plant

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Declaring its Intent to Accept Real Property Beneath the City's Hydroelectric Plant Granted by the United States of America Through its Bureau of Reclamation.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The City owns a hydroelectric plant located on United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) land within the fenced enclosure around Lauro Reservoir (Attachment 1). The hydroelectric plant receives water from the City's Gibraltar Dam and Reservoir that is delivered to Santa Barbara via the City's Mission Tunnel. In 1981, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a license to the City "to construct, operate, and maintain the Gibraltar Hydroelectric Project". In 1982, Reclamation signed a license and agreement with the City which provided for "construction, operation, and maintenance of Gibraltar Hydroelectric Project Powerplant" (Attachment 2).

Gibraltar Reservoir has been operated primarily to provide water to the City and to supplement peak demands of the Montecito and Carpinteria Water Districts by delivering water into Lauro Reservoir. Power generation was a secondary consideration to meeting the water needs of South Coast customers.

The City officially surrendered the FERC license in 2002 because costs for plant operation and maintenance, licensing, and other expenses exceeded the income from power sales. Also, FERC requirements could interfere with water delivery from Gibraltar Reservoir. However, today a national effort is underway to develop clean, renewable sources of energy, and the City can contribute by generating hydroelectric power at its decommissioned plant. City ownership of the underlying land will allow FERC to issue a conduit exemption; thus, removing regulatory barriers for restarting the plant.

Reclamation has no objection to the City's request to obtain ownership to the approximately one acre of land beneath the hydroelectric plant and has provided a process for the City to follow. The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) operation and activities in and around Lauro Reservoir would not be affected by the land conveyance to the City. All senior access across the parcel will remain in place for both COMB and Reclamation personnel. On August 23, 2010, the COMB Board approved (5/0) to send a letter in support of the City's request to Reclamation.

The Resolution recommended for adoption herein is proposed to demonstrate the City's desire to resume operations at the hydroelectric plant, and to demonstrate intent by Council to accept ownership of the underlying land, if conveyed to the City by Reclamation.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Recommissioning the City's hydroelectric plant will result in the production of clean and renewable hydroelectric power. It has been estimated by Brown & Caldwell Engineers, Inc., that, initially, the hydroelectric plant can produce 1600 megawatt hours (MWh) of power annually. Because of siltation at Gibraltar Dam, the amount of power generation will decline over time, and eventually will reach a steady annual production of 975 MWh, which is enough to meet the electrical demand of approximately 200 single family homes. The power produced by the hydroelectric plant will be sold to Southern California Edison at the "California Renewable Energy Small Tariff" rate.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** 1. Vicinity Map  
2. Site Map

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

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

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



# The City of Santa Barbara Hydroelectric Plant Vicinity Map

Features shown hereon were compiled from the records of various public and private entities and are for informational purposes only. The City of Santa Barbara does not accept any responsibility for the positional or completeness of this information.

City Hydroelectric Plant - Vicinity Map.mxd

**Legend**

-  Hydroelectric Plant
-  W. Cater Treatment Plant
-  Parcel Lines




0 500  
Feet



City of Santa Barbara  
Decommissioned  
Hydroelectric Plant

*Lauro Reservoir*

# The City of Santa Barbara Hydroelectric Plant Site Map

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City Hydroelectric Plant - Site Map.mxd

**Legend**

-  Hydroelectric Plant
-  Plant Site Boundary
-  Parcel Lines




Not to scale