



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** September 11, 2012  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department  
**SUBJECT:** Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute, subject to approval as to form, by the City Attorney, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cooperating Partners providing for the continued administration and development of an update to the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for Santa Barbara County, with the City's share of costs not to exceed \$20,000.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Background**

The Water Security Clean Drinking Water Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) provided funding for a range of water related plans and projects, with local grant funding conditioned upon the development of regional water management plans. In order for the Cooperating Partners to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for Santa Barbara County, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed that outlines processes for cost sharing and decision making regarding the contents of the IRWMP and the projects identified for funding. The Cooperating Partners consist of 30 agencies, including government agencies, special districts, and non-governmental organizations. In accordance with Proposition 50, the Cooperating Partners developed an IRWMP, adopted by Council on June 26, 2007, and successfully obtained grant funding to implement key projects, including the City's Mission Creek project.

In November 2006, California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), which built on the previous Proposition 50 and serves as an additional funding source. An IRWMP has increasingly become a prerequisite for obtaining grant funds for water related plans and projects in California.

**MOU Update**

The MOU was first authorized by Council on August 1, 2006. The primary revisions are to renew the MOU for a period of 5 years and to allow the Santa Barbara County Water Agency to negotiate with another local entity to take on the role of lead agency, if doing so is in the County's best interest.

The County has contracted with RMC Water and Environment to update the IRWMP. The proposed City funding will contribute to the cost of this process. The County Water Agency is providing half the cost for the consultant contract, with the remaining funds being contributed by the Cooperating Partners. It is anticipated that the revised IRWMP will be completed in mid-2013. In the coming months, the Cooperating Partners will identify those projects which are most attractive to meet the intent of the Proposition 84 guidelines through a project selection process. The selected projects will be included in an application to pursue a grant in Round One of Proposition 84.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There are adequate funds in the Water Fund to cover the City's share of related costs. Participation in this MOU and IRWM process allows the City to apply for grant funding under this program.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

This MOU revolves around implementing policies to reduce water demand, increase water supplies for beneficial use, improve water quality, improve resource stewardship (ecosystem restoration), and improve flood management.

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

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

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