



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DRAFT

ITEM 5B AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2015

ITEM 5B

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Agreement For Surface Water And Groundwater Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a joint funding agreement with United States Geological Survey for water resources investigations related to surface water and groundwater measurements for the period of November 1, 2015, through October 31, 2016, with a City cost share not to exceed \$152,900; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures up to \$20,000 for extra monitoring services.

DISCUSSION:

The City and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have worked cooperatively on water resources monitoring and investigations for over 25 years. This includes an annual program of measuring surface water flows and monitoring groundwater levels and water quality. As in the past, the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 program has two elements (per the attached letter from USGS, dated November 17, 2015):

- **Surface Water Gauging Stations:** USGS will continue to operate, maintain, and publish stream flow records for four gauging and data collection stations on the Santa Ynez River, and one on Mission Creek. These stations provide real-time data and daily averages. The information is used to implement the Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement, as well as for general documentation and monitoring of operations at Gibraltar Reservoir, and for tracking recharge releases into Mission Creek.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** USGS personnel will take monthly water level measurements from 67 monitoring well locations. USGS will maintain the database of water level data and continue a program of collecting and maintaining data on groundwater quality. The water level and water quality information is used for

computer-modeling the City's groundwater supplies and the potential impact from seawater intrusion into the downtown groundwater basin.

The data that is collected and maintained is an important part of managing the City's water supply.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The overall program cost is \$203,500, to be shared by the City (\$152,900) and USGS (\$50,600). Authorization for extra services up to \$20,000 is requested for additional USGS scope such as increased monitoring, in the event of seawater intrusion. Funds for this program are appropriated in the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Fund.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Monitoring of groundwater levels and quality is essential management of the City's groundwater basins as a long-term sustainable water resource.

ATTACHMENT: Letter from US Geological Survey, dated November 17, 2015

PREPARED BY: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager/KD/sk

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office