

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA****COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT****DRAFT**

**AGENDA DATE:** January 10, 2012

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmember's

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

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Approving Application for Water Smart Grant Program

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara, Authorizing the Public Works Director to Submit an Application, Execute a Grant Agreement in a Form Approved By the City Attorney, and Take Other Actions as May Be Necessary for City Participation in the United States Bureau of Reclamation Water Smart Grant Program, With a City Matching Contribution Not to Exceed \$300,000.

**DISCUSSION:**

Increased water conservation is a key component of the recently adopted Long-Term Water Supply Plan. Continued conservation efforts are required to meet State mandates for water use reduction and preserve the City's eligibility for State grants and low interest loans. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Water Smart Grant Program provides funding to water purveyors for projects that promote water conservation. Staff proposes to submit a grant application to conduct a pilot project involving real-time monitoring of water flow into, and out of, the pilot study area. The pilot area is expected to be one of the City's smaller water pressure zones. Automatic metering would provide flow information to operators and customers to promote conservation and detect leakage, both on the customer side of the meter and in the City's distribution system. The project is expected to provide important information for the City's water conservation efforts and meter maintenance procedures. Staff anticipates a maximum project cost of up to \$600,000, with a City matching contribution of 50%, or up to \$300,000. City contribution is anticipated to be largely through in-kind contributions of staff time, but if needed, funds are available in the Water Resources Division budget.

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

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

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