



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No.

DRAFT

AGENDA DATE: January 15, 2013

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Annual Water Supply Management Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve and adopt the City of Santa Barbara Water Supply Management Report for the 2012 water year, finding that groundwater resources are in long-term balance in accordance with the conjunctive management element of the City's Long-Term Water Supply Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Water Supply Management Report (WSMR) is an annual report summarizing activities of the past water year (October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012). The report fulfills a mitigation requirement of the Coastal Branch of the State Water Project to manage water supplies to prevent long-term overdraft of local groundwater. City staff also uses the report to inform Council and the public about recent activities and current water supply conditions. Key issues of the report are summarized below.

- Lake Cachuma ended the year at 77% of capacity. Remaining 2012 entitlement water has been preserved in the City's account as carryover water for future use. As the City's largest water supply source, Lake Cachuma is the most important indicator of the City's water supply status. The current level of storage indicates there is no immediate concern about local water shortage, but our water supply is always managed with the idea that any year may be the first year of a major drought.
- The 2012 water year was the first complete year under the City's updated Long Term Water Supply Plan (LTWSP). An addendum to the City 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) was submitted to the State Department of Water Resources in response to a request for further information. The UWMP was subsequently determined to have addressed the required elements, thereby preserving the City's eligibility for State grants and loans.
- Groundwater resources are in balance and long-term groundwater production does not exceed perennial basin yield.

- Siltation related to the 2007 Zaca Fire resulted in significant reduction in storage capacity at Gibraltar Reservoir and continues to cause increased water treatment costs. The reduced storage volume is the impetus for our work on initiating the “Pass Through” option under the 1989 Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement (also known as the “Pass Through Agreement”).
- A major ruling by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on water rights for the Cachuma Project is still pending. At issue is how water should be managed to balance the needs for water supply, while protecting fish. The updated Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed and was officially entered in the record following a hearing in March 2012. We have been told that a draft water rights order is being prepared for consideration in 2013.
- In accordance with the LTWSP, the Water Conservation Program is operated to minimize the use of potable water supplies, meet the requirements of the California Urban Water Conservation Council Best Management Practices, and achieve compliance with the State’s “20% X 2020” per capita water use reductions. Conservation measures are evaluated for cost effectiveness based on avoided cost of additional water supplies. The popular Smart Landscape Rebate Program has had 404 applicants since its inception, with 205 receiving rebates so far. Implementation of a comprehensive water conservation marketing plan is underway. New program elements this year include a free mulch pilot program, and workshops on water wise landscaping and graywater systems with partner organizations.
- Demand for the year was 14,096 acre-feet (AF), with a per capita water use of 128 gallons per person per day. These values are somewhat above our targets but are not of concern, since they reflect a year with about 40% less local rainfall than average, with a corresponding higher irrigation demand.

In summary, water supplies continue to be sufficient to meet the goals of the City’s updated LTWSP.

The draft WSMR has been made available for public review and comment. The Water Commission is scheduled to review the report on December 10, 2012. Council will be briefed at the time of our report on any input from the Water Commission or the public.

ATTACHMENT(S): 2012 Draft Water Supply Management Report

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager BF/mh

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator’s Office