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## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 5, 2019

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Adoption Of Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2018

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Adopting the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2018.

#### **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, conditioned upon the development of regional water management plans. In order to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for Santa Barbara County, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed among Cooperating Partners that outlines processes for cost sharing and decision-making regarding the contents of the IRWM Plan and the projects identified for funding. The Cooperating Partners consist of a county-wide group of approximately 29 cities, special districts, water companies, joint powers authorities, and non-governmental organizations. In accordance with Proposition 50, the Cooperating Partners developed an IRWM Plan, adopted by Council on June 26, 2007, and successfully obtained \$25 million in grant funding to implement key projects, including the City's Mission Creek Restoration 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 upon Proposition 50 and served as an additional funding source. The Cooperating Partners again successfully obtained approximately \$5 million in grant funding for key projects, including a regional recycled water development plan for the South Coast and a \$2.1 million grant award for the City's recycled water plant upgrades. In addition, the IRWM Plan was updated to include more recent planning documents, policies, and data. The updated IRWM Plan was adopted by Council on June 17, 2014.

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Approved by voters on November 4, 2014, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) builds upon Propositions 50 and 84 and provides additional IRWM funding. Approximately \$6 million in project funding is available to the Santa Barbara IRWM region under Proposition 1. The funding will be dispersed in two funding rounds. The draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Proposition 1 first round funding was released by the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) in October 2018. The final PSP is expected in the winter of 2019, with application deadlines for first round funding expected in the spring/summer of 2019.

## Discussion

The IRWM Plan Update 2018 is a comprehensive update of the original 2007 Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Plan, last updated in 2013 and adopted by Council in June 2014, which describes the region's water management setting, history, challenges, goals, objectives, and strategies. It builds upon local water and resource management plans from the region, and was developed with input from an array of water management stakeholders. The plan provides a mechanism for stakeholders to work together to collaborate on local water issues and challenges and effectively implement water management projects that achieve regional water management objectives. The IRWM Plan Update 2018 objectives include:

- Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies
- Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies
- Practice balanced natural resource stewardship
- Protect and improve water quality
- Improve flood management
- Improve emergency preparedness
- Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability
- Address climate change through adaptation and management
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits

The IRWM Plan Update 2018 was required to ensure the IRWM Plan conforms to the DWR 2016 Proposition 1 IRWM Guidelines, the most recent standards released by the DWR. The update also addresses deficiencies identified by the DWR during its last review of the plan. Significant changes to the plan as a result of the 2018 update include:

- A re-prioritization and editing of climate change vulnerabilities in the context of recent events, including extended drought, wildfires, flooding, and a catastrophic debris flow, as well as new climate change impact assessments.
- Input from three subcommittees: the Water and Culture Subcommittee, the Climate Change Subcommittee, and the Disadvantaged Community and Vulnerable Communities Subcommittee. Participation in the subcommittee meetings was open to all Cooperating Partners and stakeholders.
- A review of the plan's resource management strategies.

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Projects to implement the IRWM Plan are developed in response to newly identified needs and are updated on an ongoing basis in the project database. In the coming months, the Cooperating Partners, including the City, will identify the projects that are most attractive to meet the intent of the Proposition 1 guidelines through a project selection process. The selected projects will be included in an application to pursue Proposition 1 grant funding. The IRWM Plan Update 2018 can be reviewed at <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/irwmp/plan-2018.sbc>.

The Water Commission reviewed this item at its regular meeting on January 17, 2019 and voted **X-X-X** in support of staff's recommendation.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Per the MOU, the County of Santa Barbara pays 50 percent of the IRWM program costs, while the remaining Cooperating Partners split the other 50 percent proportionally dependent upon service area population. The annual budget for the IRWM program varies from year to year depending on the workload, including the number of grants applied for, whether or not the IRWM Plan is being updated, etc. Last year the City was responsible for 9.6 percent of the Cooperating Partners' share, or approximately \$16,000. There are adequate funds in the Water Fund to cover the City's share of related costs. Participation in the MOU and IRWM process allows the City to apply for grant funding under this program.

### Environmental Review

Adoption of the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan Update 2018 is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

**PREPARED BY:** Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager/DC/js

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

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