



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: May 21, 2019

TO: Jim Throop, City Manager

FROM: Shaun Ryan, Water Superintendent
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SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6248(19) for Adoption of the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2019

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6248(19), which adopts the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update (2019).

Background:

The statewide IRWM Grant Program, managed by the California Department of Water Resources, is supported by Proposition 50 (2002) and Proposition 84 (2006). Both propositions provide bond funding for competitive grants that improve water resource management.

In 2005, Santa Barbara County Water Agency (County), and Cooperating Partners, consisting of cities, districts, joint power authorities, a non-profit corporation, and a tribe, created an IRWM Region to meet the requirements of Proposition 50 and to apply for IRWM grants. In 2006, the City joined the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region (SBC-IRWM). The County has been the lead agency for the SBC-IRWM and submittal of projects for grants under Propositions 50 and 84 since 2005. The SBC-IRWM published its first IRWM Plan in 2007 and has received over \$28 Million to date in State grant funding.

As Cooperating Partners, the City, Vandenberg Village Community Services District, and Mission Hills Community Services District received a joint \$171,428.00 Proposition 84, Round 1 grant for a leak detection survey of their water distribution systems, repair of leaks, and purchase of leak detection equipment.

SBC-IRWM Plan:

In 2010, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded the SBC-IRWM Region a \$500,000 grant to conduct stakeholder outreach, complete planning studies, and prepare the SBC-IRWM Plan 2013.

The 2013 Plan built on local water and resource management plans from the Region, and was developed with input from water management stakeholders throughout Santa Barbara County. The Plan provided a mechanism for stakeholders to work together on local water issues and challenges, effectively implementing water management projects and achieving regional water management objectives. The Cooperating Partners, Steering Committee and its working groups have worked together to support the activities of the SBC-IRWM.

The County prepared a Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA for preparation of the Plan. Members of the public were invited to take part in workshops concerning the Plan development during 2012 and 2013.

DWR released an Addendum, including new requirements to their 2010 Guidelines, which required IRWM Regions to circulate completed plans to DWR for review and consistency with IRWM Plan Standards. As required, the Plan was sent to DWR on March 11, 2014, and DWR found that the Plan is consistent with the IRWM Planning Act and related IRWM Plan standards on May 15, 2014.

Discussion:

The IRWM Plan Update 2019 is a comprehensive update of the original 2007 Plan, last updated in 2013, 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 Update 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 Plan Update 2019 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;
- Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability;
- Address climate change through adaptation and management; and
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits.

The Plan Update 2019 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 Plan Update 2019 include:

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

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, 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 2019 can be reviewed at the County of Santa Barbara website <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/irwmp/plan-2018.sbc>.

Fiscal Impact:

Adoption of the IRWM Plan Update 2019 does not create a fiscal impact to the General Fund. However, not adopting the plan could result in the City not receiving any IRWM grant funding. Appendix 2-A provides the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Cooperating Partners have signed with the County for participation in the SBC-IRWM process.

The City has budgeted for its participant share of the IRWM process as part of the Water Utility and in any share of costs related to Proposition 50/84 grants. Based on the IRWM Plan, local jurisdictions have received approximately \$28 Million in grant funds since 2007.

Conclusion:

Adoption of the Plan was required by March 15, 2019, because the grant from the DWR requires that the Plan be adopted by this time period and an approved Plan is required to apply for future grant funds under Proposition 84.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Ryan, Water Superintendent

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY MANAGER:

Brad Wilkie, Utility Director

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Jim Throop, City Manager

Attachments: Resolution No. 6248(19)

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