

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

MARCH 7, 2005 - Water Resources
Cole, Vasquez
MARCH 21, 2005 - Board Meeting
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Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) AGREEMENT
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)

SUMMARY:

Staff has been participating in a process with the RMC and other stakeholders (collectively, "Regional Group") to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan). A Plan is a requirement for eligibility to receive grant funds under Chapter 8 of Proposition 50. The Intent of the IRWM Grant Program is to encourage integrated regional strategies for management of water resources and to provide funding through competitive grants for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

In order for the Regional Group to move forward with a formal Plan, an Agreement must be executed to identify the participants and stakeholders in the process. The purpose of the Agreement is to advance the planning, implementation and administration of the Plan and specify the decision making process.

The Regional Group's consultants, initially funded by the RMC, are currently preparing the grant proposal(s) that will be due in the next few months (Planning proposals are due in May and Implementation proposals are due in June). There is \$160 million this funding cycle and \$220 million in next year's funding cycle that will be distributed by the joint administering agencies: the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). There is a \$500,000 maximum for a planning grant and \$50 million for an implementation grant.

If the Regional Group is awarded funding from Proposition 50, Central Basin must be a signatory to the Agreement for its projects to be considered. The current participants in the process include Central Basin, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Long Beach Water Department, Water Replenishment District, RMC, State Coastal Conservancy, TreePeople, Los Amigos de Los Rios, LASGR Watershed, Central Basin Water Association, San Gabriel Water Association, Gateway COG, and the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority.

As a party to the Agreement, Central Basin would be directly involved in the decision making process as a member of the Regional Group's Steering Committee that decides which projects will be included in the proposal and the projects that will receive funding, if the State awards the group a Proposition 50 grant. It is anticipated that only public agencies would serve on the Steering Committee, and that an Advisory Committee would provide a forum for participation to special interest groups and other stakeholders.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

There is currently no fiscal obligation for Central Basin being a signatory to the Agreement. Future studies could include a contribution from the District for consulting fees.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resource Committee on March 7, 2005 and was recommended for approval at the March 21, 2005 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co-General Managers to execute the Agreement for Central Basin's participation in the Regional Group.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" - Agreement (To be forwarded under separate cover)