

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

JUNE 16, 2005 - Water Resources

Cole, Apodaca

JUNE 27, 2005 - Board Meeting

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Approved by: Richard Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER WATERSHED REGION
REQUEST FOR CONSULTING FUNDS

SUMMARY:

Staff has been participating in a process with the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) and other stakeholders (collectively, "Regional Group") to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and Implementation Grant application. The IRWMP is a requirement for eligibility to receive grant funds under Chapter 8 of Proposition 50. The intent of the IRWMP 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.

The Regional Group applied for a Planning Grant on May 12 for \$450,000 to develop an Integrated Plan for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Region. In order for the Regional Group to move forward with the development of a Plan, consulting services are being requested to begin the process of developing a Plan. Since Planning Grant funding will not be awarded until September 2005 and funds will not be distributed until January 2006, funding is needed by August 2005 for the consultant to begin preparing the Plan.

It was determined that approximately \$220,000 would be needed from August 2005 to January 2006 for the consultant's fees. Thus far, WCA has covered the cost of the consultant fees from a grant given by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. This is the first formal request for agencies to contribute funds. Therefore, WCA has requested each agency contribute up to \$50,000 to fund the initial work performed by the consultant.

Depending upon the number of other agencies that contribute and their respective contributions, Central Basin's contribution could be less. Staff is requesting that the Board authorize the Co-General Managers to contribute no more than \$50,000 to fund the consultant's work to develop an IRWMP for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Region.

For Planning Grants to develop an IRWMP, there is only one round available of \$12 million. For Implementation Grants, there is \$160 million for this funding cycle and \$220 million in the next funding cycle that will be distributed by the joint administering agencies: the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board. There is a \$500,000 maximum for a planning grant and \$50 million for an implementation grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds for these activities are designated in the Water Resources and Planning Budget for fiscal year 2004-05.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on June 16, 2005 and recommended for approval at the June 27, 2005 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co-General Managers to contribute no more than \$50,000 to fund the consultant's work to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Region.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.

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