



DRAFT

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 25, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Five-Year Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring [Contract]

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- A. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a five-year joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey for water resources monitoring and investigations related to surface water and groundwater measurements for the period of October 01, 2022, through September 30, 2027, with a City of Santa Barbara cost share not to exceed \$1,112,550; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute amendments to the agreement to respond to changes in water supply conditions and to approve expenditures up to \$100,000 for unforeseen monitoring services that may be required.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara (City) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have worked cooperatively on water resources monitoring and investigations for over 25 years. This includes an annual program measuring surface water flows and monitoring groundwater levels and water quality. In the past, this program was contracted on an annual basis; this proposed agreement is for a five-year period ending in September 2027. As in the past, the proposed program (see Attachment) has two elements:

- Surface Water Gauging Stations: USGS will continue to operate, maintain, and publish streamflow records for four gauging and data collection stations on the Santa Ynez River, and one on Mission Creek. These stations provide real-time data and daily averages. The information is used to implement the Upper Santa Ynez River Operations Agreement, document and monitor operations at Gibraltar Reservoir, and provide data for the City's groundwater model.
- Groundwater Monitoring: USGS personnel will take monthly water level measurements from 45 monitoring well locations and quarterly water quality

measurements from 11 monitoring well locations, per Attachment 1 of the agreement. The well locations are on the USGS website: <http://maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/index.html>. USGS will continue collecting and maintaining the database of water level data and groundwater quality data. The City uses the water level and water quality information for modeling groundwater supplies and to monitor the potential impact of seawater intrusion in the Santa Barbara groundwater basin, located downtown. The water level data is also used to meet the requirements of the City's state-mandated California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring program.

The City uses groundwater conjunctively, meaning it pumps groundwater during periods of drought when surface water supplies are reduced. The City relied on its groundwater supplies significantly in 2015 and 2016 in response to persistent drought conditions. After some rainfall in 2017, the City was able to turn off its wells and rest the groundwater basins for several years. In response to recent dry conditions, the City is once again pumping groundwater to augment supplies this summer. Should the region experience significant rainfall during the agreement time period and the City is able to once again turn off its groundwater wells, staff is asking Council for authority for the Public Works Director to amend the agreement to reduce the frequency of the groundwater monitoring program from monthly to quarterly as a cost-saving measure. The data collected through this program is an important part of managing the City's water supply.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The overall program cost is \$1,369,500, to be shared by the City (\$1,112,550) and USGS (\$256,950), per USGS's Cooperative Work Program. The table below shows the breakdown of annual costs per the agreement:

Agreement Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total Agreement Amount
City Share	\$213,610	\$216,630	\$222,000	\$227,400	\$232,910	\$1,112,550
USGS Share	\$51,390	\$51,390	\$51,390	\$51,390	\$51,390	\$256,950
Total	\$265,000	\$268,020	\$273,390	\$278,790	\$284,300	\$1,369,500

Authorization for extra services up to \$20,000 per year (\$100,000 total agreement amount) is requested for potential additional scope from USGS, such as expanded monitoring for seawater intrusion, if necessary.

There are sufficient expenditure appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2023 Adopted Water Operating Fund Budget to fund Year 1 of the agreement, and extra services with USGS for water resources monitoring and investigations related to surface water and groundwater measurements. Staff plans to include expenditure appropriations for the agreement and extra services costs for each subsequent year in the proposed Water Operating Fund Budget during the annual budget process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The monitoring of groundwater levels and quality is essential for the management of the City's groundwater basins to provide a long-term sustainable water resource.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Surface and groundwater monitoring from established monitoring wells is exempt from CEQA review.

A copy of the agreement may be requested from the Public Works Department for public review; please contact PWInfo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov to request a copy.

ATTACHMENT(S): Program Letter

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SUBMITTED BY: Clifford M. Maurer, P.E., Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office