

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**

Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department:
 Sonoma County Water Agency and
 Transportation and Public Works

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact: Marcus Trotta Terry Lovold	Phone: (707) 547-1978 (707) 565-3618	Board Date: 06-16-09
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Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:
 Santa Rosa Plain Cooperative Groundwater Study – Fourth Amended Agreement

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):

Concurrent Action to:

1. Authorize Chair to execute, on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency and the County of Sonoma, the Fourth Amended Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support Information for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study between and among Sonoma County Water Agency, County of Sonoma, City of Santa Rosa, City of Rohnert Park, City of Sebastopol, City of Cotati, Town of Windsor, and Cal-American Water Company.
2. Authorize the General Manager/Chief Engineer of the Agency to execute a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey to perform activities in connection with the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study for Federal Fiscal Year 2009 in an amount not-to-exceed \$319,242, in substantially the form as the draft on file with the Clerk, following review and approval by County Counsel as to form.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ 319,242	Contingencies	\$
		(Fund Name:)	
Amount Budgeted	\$ 169,800	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
		(Source:)	
Other Avail Approp	\$ 149,442	Other Transfer(s)	\$
(Explain below)		(Source:)	
Additional Requested:	\$ -0-	Add'l Funds Requested:	\$ -0-

Explanation (if required): The local cost share of \$319,242 is allocated as follows: Agency \$159,800, County \$10,000, Co-funders \$149,442, the U.S. Geological Survey share is \$125,000, for a total FFY 2009 study cost of \$444,242. Item is budgeted in full for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 from Index/Sub-object 675728-6570.

Prior Board Action(s):

- 02/05/08 Board approval for Third Amended Cooperative Agreement and Joint Funding with USGS.
- 05/02/07 Board approval for Second Amended Cooperative Agreement and Joint Funding with USGS.
- 08/05 and 12/06 Board approvals for the Cooperative Agreements and Joint Funding with USGS to conduct the first two years of a multi-year assessment of the Santa Rosa Plain.
- 08/01 to 11/04 Board approvals for Joint Funding for Federal Fiscal Years 2001 to 2005, with the USGS to conduct cooperative studies of the groundwater resources in Sonoma County.
- 01/25/00 Concurrent direction to Permit and Resource Management Department and Water Agency to develop a proposed study program to evaluate groundwater resources in Sonoma County.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Non-approval of the Fourth Amended Agreement will produce greater uncertainty in the evaluation of the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin.

Background: Amended Agreement, "Working Copy" of Amended Agreement, and Draft Joint Funding Agreement on file with the Clerk.

This agenda item seeks Board approval to fund the fourth year of the ongoing cooperative Santa Rosa Plain groundwater studies being carried out by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency). The total cost for the study during Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 is \$444,242. The Agency share of that cost is \$159,800, County's share is \$10,000, Co-funding agencies' (City of Santa Rosa, City of Rohnert Park, City of Sebastopol, City of Cotati, Town of Windsor, and Cal-American Water Company) collective share is \$149,442, and the USGS will provide \$125,000.

Progress on the work completed in FFY 2008 is summarized in Attachment A2. This year's scope of work will include the continuance of data collection and compilation, the collection of new data with regards to depth dependant water quality sampling, data interpretation with a focus on the geohydrologic characterization, a major focus on completing computer flow modeling for both surface water and groundwater flow, and evaluation of alternative groundwater management strategies for the basin.

General

On January 25, 2000, the Agency's Board of Directors (Board) directed the Agency to develop a work program to evaluate groundwater resources in Sonoma County. Agency staff worked with scientists from the USGS to develop an initial study program to evaluate groundwater resources in the Sonoma Valley and Alexander Valley groundwater basins. Those studies were completed in FFY 2006. In anticipation of their completion, the Agency requested USGS researchers to develop a draft scope of work to evaluate groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin.

In response to the Agency's request the USGS proposed a cooperative study with the objective to 1) develop an updated assessment of the geohydrology and geochemistry of the Santa Rosa Plain, 2) develop a multi-aquifer groundwater flow model for the Santa Rosa Plain, and 3) evaluate the hydrologic impacts of alternative groundwater management strategies for the basin (Cooperative Study).

Agency staff then met with representatives from the major municipal users of groundwater in the Santa Rosa Plain to present the draft scope of work and request participation of each municipality in the Cooperative Study area. These participants, which included the Agency, the County of Sonoma and the Co-funding Agencies, entered into agreements in August 2005, December 2006, and February 2008 to fund the first three years of the Cooperative Study. Additionally, the participants entered into an agreement in May 2007 for supplemental funding during the second year of the Cooperative Study.

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Attachments: Cost Allocation (A1); USGS Letter Report reviewing work completed in Federal Fiscal Year 2008 (A2)

On File With Clerk: 1) Amended Agreement (3 Copies); 2) "Working Copy" of Amended Agreement showing changes (1 copy); 3) Draft Joint Funding Agreement (1copy)

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

USGS Cooperative Study

The USGS/Agency Cooperative Study was initiated in FFY 2006 and provides the framework for conducting a multi-year assessment of groundwater resources in the Santa Rosa Plain. The Cooperative Study will be conducted during FFY 2006 through 2010 by the USGS with support from Agency groundwater scientists and engineers. An advisory committee comprised of staff from the Co-funding Agencies has been formed to oversee the Cooperative Study, identify questions of concern, and provide guidance and relevant information to the USGS. Participation by the USGS using established scientific methods and documented USGS groundwater models will provide a high degree of confidence in reported findings and other products generated by the Cooperative Study.

The objective of the Cooperative Study is to provide much of the hydrologic information needed by the Agency, municipalities in the Santa Rosa Plain, and other management and regulatory agencies to better understand the potential impacts of groundwater use on groundwater levels, stream discharge, stream-aquifer interaction, subsidence, and water quality. The Cooperative Study will also provide the information and modeling tools needed by the Agency and others to efficiently utilize Sonoma County's surface and groundwater resources.

Cooperative Study Funding

As noted in Attachment A1, the total cost for the Cooperative Study program through FFY 2010 for the Santa Rosa Plain is estimated to be \$2,168,000, which includes the supplemental seismic work conducted during the second year of the Cooperative Study. This total is comprised of about \$768,000 of Agency funding, \$52,000 of County funding, \$664,000 from co-funding agencies, and \$685,000 from federal matching funds. In FFY 2009 the Department of Interior allocated \$125,000 to the fourth year of the Cooperative Study.

This agenda item requests the Agency and County portion of funding for the fourth year of the Cooperative Study.

Successive Cooperative Study Phases

Successive phases of the Cooperative Study will continue to evolve as information is gathered through the course of the program so that each successive phase of work will take advantage of information obtained from the previous components of the program. If necessary, more detailed cost estimates for future years of the Cooperative Study will be presented to the Board for review and approval as the Cooperative Study progresses.

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