

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

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:
Tim Anderson

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Board Date:
10/6/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

United Nations International Climate Change Conference.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Authorize the Sonoma County Water Agency to reimburse actual travel costs for six representatives to attend the December 2009 United Nations International Climate Change Conference.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES:

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Estimated Cost	\$22,500	Contingencies	\$0
		(Fund Name:)	
Amount Budgeted	\$22,500	Unanticipated Revenue	\$0
		(Source:)	
Other Available Appropriations	\$0	Other Transfers	\$0
(Explain Below)		(Source:)	
Additional Requested	\$0	Additional Funds Requested	\$0

Explanation (if required):

Funding is available from appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 budget for the fund entitled Recycled Water Fund (Account No. 674523-6570).

Prior Board Action:

None.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

None.

Background:

United Nations International Climate Change Conferences

The United Nations (UN) holds international conferences in December of each year to bring together leaders in the effort to prevent catastrophic global climate change and to prepare for and adapt to the likely impacts of increasing global temperature. The conferences include both plenary sessions where international representatives negotiate agreements on climate protection protocols as well as policy and technical meetings where representatives from around the world exchange information concerning the development of climate protection policy and the implementation of projects to reduce carbon emissions.

The next UN Conference will be convened in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 8 to 19, 2009. This meeting will be the 15th Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Official negotiations will focus on development of a new international protocol to replace the Kyoto Protocol that expires in 2012.

Local Government Participation

Local governments have been involved in UN Climate Conferences since their beginning in 1995. The meetings offer an opportunity for local officials to demonstrate and share progress being made on climate protection goals, to strengthen the local voice in development of international policy, and to demonstrate the high potential of local government to achieve implementation of future UN climate agreements. Participation of local government representatives in past UN Climate Conferences has been coordinated by the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and by the California Climate Action Registry.

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) benefits from participation in the UN Climate Conferences by the exchange of information and strategic concepts with local government organizations from around the world. The Agency also gains knowledge necessary to develop state and federal initiatives that integrate with international strategies emerging from the UN deliberations.

COP-13 Climate Conference – Bali, Indonesia

The Agency was invited to participate in the 13th UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia in 2007 along with high-level officials from the State of California and with other local government representatives from around the state. The conference program included more than sixty topical meetings of interest to local government participants. Agency Director Kelley was invited to speak on Agency programs for carbon-free water and zero energy communities at an event titled: “Global Problem – Local Solutions: Local Governments for Climate Action.”

Over 200 representatives of local governments and their associations, from 40 countries, attended the Local Government Climate Sessions in Bali. This made the local government group the second largest delegation at the conference.

COP-14 Climate Change Conference, Poznan, Poland

The 14th UN Climate Change Conference was convened in Poznan, Poland on December 1 to 12, 2008. The Agency sent four representatives to this conference as a part of the California delegation being organized by the California Climate Action Registry. The delegation also included high-level officials from the State of California. Agency Director Valerie Brown was invited to speak at the Conference on local strategies to reduce carbon emissions. The Agency was also invited to meet with officials developing a zero-energy communities program in Denmark following the UN Conference.

COP-15 Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

The 15th UN Climate Change Conference will be convened in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 8 to 19, 2009. The Agency proposes to send six representatives to this conference as a part of the delegation being organized by The Climate Registry and by ICLEI. The delegation will include high-level officials from the State of California. Agency delegates would attend the second week of the conference from December 12 to 19, 2009.

The recommended six-person delegation for COP-15 is currently under development but is expected to include Paul Kelley, SCWA Director and Chairman; Valerie Brown, SCWA Director; Jake Mackenzie, Chair of the Water Advisory Committee; Mr. Tod Brilliant, Agency consultant developing a video briefing on the subject to be used for outreach to the public; Dr. Robert Wilkinson, Professor in the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UC Santa Barbara and consultant to the Agency; and Tim Anderson, Water Agency Government Affairs Coordinator. If it is necessary to change the persons participating in this team, Agency staff will return to the Board to request approval of the change.

Travel costs for the UN Conference team are estimated at \$22,500 based on the following conditions: 1) Dr. Wilkinson's travel expenses would be paid under an existing, Board-approved professional services agreement with the Agency and are not included here; 2) the Agency will secure outside funding for one or more of the delegates from the Association of California Water Agencies, the National Association of Counties, or other sources.

Attachments:

None.

On File With Clerk:

None.

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Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: