

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET**  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

DATE ISSUED: November 16, 2010  
ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Meeting Committee  
Agenda of December 1, 2010  
ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Utilities Department  
SUBJECT: Cooperative Hydrogeologic Investigations Agreement  
with United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): All  
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REQUESTED ACTION:

Authorize the execution of a two-year joint funded Cooperative Hydrogeologic Investigations Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for an amount not to exceed \$2,007,400.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Agreement and expenditure of funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of San Diego Long-Range Water Resources Plan (2002-2030) (LRWRP) outlines a process for the City to develop its own local water supplies and become less reliant on imported water. On December 9, 2002, the City Council adopted the LRWRP which established a goal of developing 10,000 acre-feet per year and storing up to 20,000 acre-feet of local groundwater by 2010. The City's development of groundwater will provide a source of additional water supply and potential economic benefits. To help achieve the groundwater goals of the LRWRP and to comply with the just recently passed SBx7-6 (a state law requiring regular and systematic groundwater elevation monitoring to demonstrate seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater elevations), USGS will install four multi-completion monitoring wells, two in the San Diego Formation and two in the San Pasqual Groundwater Basin. The purposes are as follows:

**San Diego Formation (SDF)** - An issue of critical importance to the City of San Diego is determining the source of recharge, groundwater level and quality throughout the year to the SDF. This issue is central to both groundwater availability and water rights. Currently USGS, the recognized regional hydrogeologic expert, cannot speak with clarity to this issue of recharge to the SDF because data are missing in a key area of interest; namely the Chollas Creek drainage. The Chollas Creek drainage appears to be the most likely path for recharge water. If Chollas Creek is determined to be a predominant path for recharge, the City may be entitled to a significant portion of the fresh water in the SDF through pueblo water rights. The two multi-completion monitoring wells in the Chollas Creek drainage will help identify the source of recharge to the San Diego Formation and determine the flow path of this recharge to production wells on the coastal plain of San Diego.

**San Pasqual Valley** - The City has limited/insufficient access to groundwater level data and understanding of the hydro geology in San Pasqual. This is preventing timely and appropriate management of the water resources in the basin for agricultural and other beneficial uses. In order for the City to assess the condition of the groundwater basin, it needs groundwater level, water quality and recharge rate data. This data will also be essential in documenting and evaluating basin response or impacts of San Pasqual Groundwater Management Plan actions and assist with efforts to comply with State mandated SBx7-6. The multi-completion monitoring wells with capability to transmit real-time

groundwater level data to USGS's web site will be constructed in the San Pasqual Valley to understand the geology of the basins, and baseline groundwater levels and water quality.

The bulk of the cost for these two sites will be used for the installation of USGS specialty designed multi-completion monitoring wells. In addition to these four wells, the City is setting aside 10% of the contract for hydrogeologic investigation to support the work in and related to the basins described. This work will be for review and analysis of hydrogeologic data, interpretive reports, technical meetings and briefings to support this work. In addition USGS has been able to secure matching funds totaling \$251,400 to provide additional value to the contract work and be able to more deeply investigate hydrogeologic anomalies and areas of concern.

The highly regarded and nationally recognized technical expertise of the USGS will assist the City in advancing our understanding of local resources to ensure a sustainable and reliable groundwater supply and comply with SBx7-6. The proposed hydro geologic investigation to be performed by USGS under this Agreement will assist the City in implementing the above mentioned groundwater projects by providing the data and analysis of hydrogeologic and water quality information to better understand the basin and develop it sustainably.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING:

This Agreement with the USGS, a federal agency, involves only work performed by federal employees and will not include any contracting.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The total estimated cost of this agreement is \$1,756,000. The Enterprise Funding of \$1,756,000 is available from CIP A-BM.0001(Legacy CIP 75-932.0), Annual Allocation – Groundwater Asset Development Program , Fund 700011, Water, for this purpose. The agreement is scheduled to be phase funded over two fiscal years in Fiscal Year 2011 and Fiscal Year 2012. No future funding is anticipated. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the City Comptroller will issue a Comptroller's Certificate for each phase of the agreement contingent upon City Council approval of the 2012 Appropriation Ordinance.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:

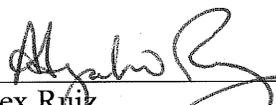
December 9, 2002, the City of San Diego adopted the Long-Range Water Resources Plan (LRWRP) by Resolution R-2003-657. On June 26, 2008, the City Council approved the Cooperative Hydrogeologic Investigations Agreement with USGS (R-303879), and on June 19, 2009, the Council approved the First Amendment increasing the fund by \$250,000 with 2-year extension (R-304960).

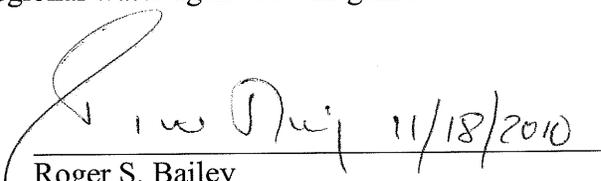
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

The Public Utilities Department has been actively involved in public outreach efforts through presentations to community groups and by providing project fact sheets and project information on the City's web page at [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov).

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

As an initiative to meet the goals of the Long-Range Planning and Water Resources, the City water rate payers are stakeholders. In addition, the USGS and regional water agencies will gain scientific knowledge from these activities.

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Director of Public Utilities