

Agenda Report

May 21, 2001

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Subject: Adopt Resolution to Authorize the Application for a Grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources Under the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution to authorize Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) to apply for a \$250,000 groundwater grant from the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to implement a Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program. It is also recommended that the City Council designate PWP's General Manager as the authorized representative for the City and authorize her signature on the contract documents.

BACKGROUND

PWP submitted an application on May 1, 2001 to DWR for a \$250,000 grant from the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund, which was established by the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303). The application was submitted prior to Council's approval because PWP was not aware of DWR's request for application proposals until two weeks prior to the May 3, 2001 due date.

State Assemblywoman Helen Thomson (D-Davis) authored this bill to provide funding for local agencies to implement groundwater management plans. AB 303, signed by Governor Gray Davis in September 2000, will provide funding for groundwater monitoring, data collection, evaluation and analysis, pilot projects, and capital improvements for the purpose of managing groundwater resources effectively to ensure the safe production, quality, and proper storage of groundwater in California. DWR solicited applications in anticipation that the State Legislature will appropriate funding or

provide clearance to move forward without specified funding. DWR is expected to announce its final selections and begin executing contracts by the end of June 2001. Funds received from this grant do not require reimbursement to DWR unless the applicant fails to maintain its contractual obligations.

PWP will use grant funds received from AB 303 for a Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program when the Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Project is implemented. Currently Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Raymond Basin Management Board, PWP, and Foothill Municipal Water District (Foothill) are seeking an agreement for the Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Project. MWD, as part of its Integrated Resources Plan and its Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan, is seeking agreements to optimize the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater storage in its service area. Raymond Basin Management Board is seeking agreements to optimize the use of storage space in the Raymond Basin to provide long-term drought protection and emergency storage for overlying users at reasonable rates and to enhance water quality benefits to the Raymond Basin. MWD intends to store 75,000 acre-feet of treated imported water in the Raymond Basin.

Before a project of this magnitude and reach is implemented, thorough studies and monitoring programs will have to be put in place to ensure that the quality of the existing groundwater will not be adversely affected and the results are neither detrimental nor threatening to parties having rights to the groundwater.

The primary objectives of the Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program is to obtain adequate data and information on hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, groundwater production, groundwater recharge, and imported water to help identify potential changes in water quality of the Raymond Basin due to the operation of the Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Project, evaluate effectiveness of groundwater storage and recovery operation, and evaluate potential impacts of the Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Project on the hydrogeology and contamination migration in the Raymond Basin and possibly the Main San Gabriel Basin. The Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program will be implemented prior to the initiation of groundwater injection under the Raymond Basin Conjunctive Use Project and continued throughout the project life. Staff anticipates that the Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program will be in place for a minimum of five years.

The total cost of implementation and five years of annual operating expenses for the Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program is estimated at \$325,000. If PWP is awarded a grant from AB 303, it will be used to partially offset these costs and expenses not covered by the grant will be paid for by MWD. In the interim, PWP has funds in the annual operating budget for water quality monitoring to pay their share of the cost, which will be reimbursed by MWD.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no application fee associated with the submission of the initial application. The total project cost for the Basinwide Groundwater Monitoring Program is \$325,000, of which approximately \$135,000 is Pasadena's share (42%). Of the expected grant total of \$250,000, \$100,000 will cover Pasadena's share and the remainder of the grant will fund contributions for other member agencies. The remaining \$35,000 of PWP's share will be funded from the water quality sampling account.

Respectfully submitted,



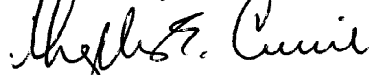
Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:



Gary Takara
Civil Engineer
Pasadena Water and Power

Approved by:



Phyllis E. Currie
General Manager
Pasadena Water and Power