

Agenda Report

July 28, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Municipal Services Committee (July 22, 2014)

FROM: Pasadena Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE 2014 UPDATED GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the adoption of the 2014 Updated Greater Los Angeles County ("GLAC") Integrated Regional Water Management ("IRWM") Plan is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c) (3) and 15378; and
2. Adopt a resolution approving the adoption of the 2014 Updated GLAC IRWM Plan in accordance with the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") 2012 IRWMP Grant Program Guidelines for IRWMP grant eligibility.

BACKGROUND:

In 2006, the California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act ("Proposition 84"). Proposition 84 authorized the appropriation of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) for IRWM plans and implementation of projects that address water resource sustainability management in California. The 2006 GLAC IRWM plan identifies solutions for increasing local water supplies in the Greater Los Angeles County Region.

In 2010, the City of Pasadena's ("Pasadena") Hahamongna Multi-Use Project was selected to receive \$3,271,000 in Proposition 84 grant funds. This project, now referred to as the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project, includes removal of unused water structures, habitat enhancements, trailhead parking and restroom, restoration and improvement of the stream water intake facility and enhances ground water recharge by creating additional spreading and sedimentation basins.

In 2013, Department of Water Resources and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (“LACFCD”) entered into an agreement whereby LACFCD was assigned the role as the GLAC regional entity and assumed responsibility for applying for IRWMP grants on behalf of Local Project Sponsors in the GLAC region. Pasadena, along with 12 other Local Project Sponsors, was approved for funding and entered into an agreement with LACFCD in February 2013.

In May 2014, LACFCD adopted the Updated IRWM Plan. While the 2006 version included planning at the regional level, the 2014 update combines individual sub-regional plans into a regional plan. The 2014 update includes the following objectives:

- **Improve Water Supply:** Optimize local water resources to reduce the Region's reliance on imported water
- **Improve Surface Water Quality:** Comply with water quality regulations by improving the quality of urban runoff, storm water and wastewater
- **Enhance Habitat:** Protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats
- **Enhance Open Space and Recreation:** Increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities
- **Reduce Flood Risk:** Reduce flood risk in flood prone areas by increasing protection or decreasing needs using integrated flood management approaches
- **Address Climate Changes:** Adapt to and mitigate against climate change vulnerabilities

The 2012 DWR IRWM Grant Program Guidelines require the governing body of each grant recipient to adopt an updated IRWM Plan to be eligible for IRWMP grants. Accordingly, Pasadena must adopt the updated GLAC IRWM Plan by July 2014 to receive the Hahamongna Multi-Use project grant and to qualify for future grants.

The IRWM Plan is not a regulatory document and does not commit Pasadena to fund the implementation of any project or program. By adopting the IRWM Plan, Pasadena agrees to work toward the goal to improve the sustainability of the Region's local water resources, a goal consistent with Pasadena's long term water resources strategy, described in the Water Integrated Resource Plan, adopted by the City Council in 2011.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City's General Plan: (1) Public Facilities Element for developing additional public facilities, (2) Open Space and Conservation Element to restore and improve the natural open space, (3) Cultural & Recreational Element to identify state funds for recreational purposes and to enhance public ability to enjoy recreation in Pasadena. The project also supports the Water Integrated Resource Plan adopted by the City Council in 2011 and the Arroyo Seco Master Plan adopted by the City Council in 2003.

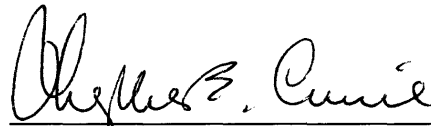
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Adoption of the 2014 Updated GLAC IRWM Plan is not a project subject to provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by Section 15378 (b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Specifically, Section 15378(b)(4) states that for the purposes of CEQA a project does not include, "the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project, which may result in a potentially significant physical impact." The proposed action is an administrative activity of the local government, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment. Any projects included in the Plan and funded by IRWM funds will comply with CEQA at the time such projects are considered for approval and/or implementation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the City does not adopt the Plan, the \$3,271,000 grant will be lost and other operational programs or capital projects may be impacted.

Respectfully submitted,



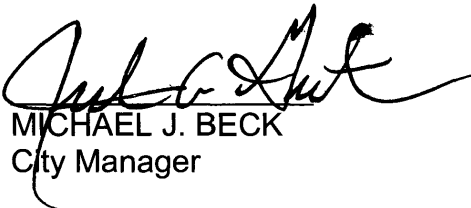
Phyllis E. Currie
General Manager

Prepared by:



Roumiana Voutchkova
Engineer

Approved by:


for
MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Resolution No. _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA APPROVING
THE ADOPTION OF THE 2014 UPDATED GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY
INTERGATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, Agencies in the Greater Los Angeles County (“GLAC”) area work together to implement regional projects and programs that address multiple water resource management issues including optimization of local water resources, reducing the dependence on imported water supplies, storm water and groundwater management, water use efficiency, habitat and open space management and many others; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) created the Integrated Regional Water Management (“IRWM”) Program to provide funding for planning and implementation of regional projects that support management of water supply, water quality, environmental interests, drought protection, flood protection, and reduction of dependence on imported water and many others; and

WHEREAS, Agencies participating in the IRWM Program join together to form IRWM Regions; and the IRWM Region serving the GLAC area is known as the GLAC IRWM, and the GLAC IRWM engages in regional water resources planning for the GLAC area; and

WHEREAS, the IRWM Program requires that a Regional Water Management Group (“RWMG”) be formed to establish an IRWM Region, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District serves as Chair of the RWMG for the GLAC IRWM; and

WHEREAS, DWR and State Legislators have established program guidelines for the IRWM Program through Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E (“2012 Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, the RWMG for the GLAC IRWM is responsible for the preparation and the adoption of an IRWM Plan and it has developed the 2014 Updated GLAC IRWM Plan that addresses the provisions of the 2012 Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, City of Pasadena has projects that have received IRWM grants; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Guidelines require recipients of IRWM grants to adopt the 2014 Updated GLAC IRWM Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. Each of the above findings is hereby determined to be true.
2. Adopt the 2014 Updated GLAC IRWM Plan.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pasadena on the

_____ day of _____, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mark Jomsky
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Lisa Hosey
Deputy City Attorney