

AGENDA ITEM NO.

COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED BY

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

CITY MANAGER



June 19, 2007

**FROM:** RENE A. RAMIREZ, Director   
Department of Public Utilities - Administration

**BY:** GARTH GADDY, Provisional Manager   
Department of Public Utilities - Water Division

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FRESNO METROPOLITAN FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR INSTALLATION OF CANAL INTERTIE CONNECTION AND MASTER PLAN STORM DRAIN FACILITIES AND RE-DESIGNATION OF BASIN "BM" FROM RECREATION TO GROUNDWATER RECHARGE.

#### KEY RESULT AREA

Resource Management

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the City Council authorize the Director of Public Utilities to negotiate and enter into an agreement on the behalf of the City for the:

1. Payment of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) in the amount of \$213,230.00, which includes a ten percent (10%) contingency, to install a canal intertie connection and Master Plan storm drain facilities for the purpose of groundwater recharge at District storm drain Basin BM; and
2. Re-designation of Basin BM from Recreation to Groundwater Recharge; and
3. Reimbursement of City by District for installation of Master Plan storm drain facilities.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recent construction of Basin BM, located on the northeast corner of Fowler and California Avenues, has unearthed an immense and unique sand stratum with an estimated groundwater recharge capacity capable of supplying 6,000 homes with water each year. This Basin will rejuvenate groundwater and assist in retarding ongoing regional nitrate and DBCP contamination. Due to the positive impact this Basin would have on groundwater supplies, staff is requesting re-designation of this Basin from Recreation to Recharge. Under a reimbursement agreement the City would pay for the installation of the remaining portion of the pipeline and canal intertie connection facilities and be reimbursed by the District for installed Master Plan facilities over time as new development occurs in the area.

## **KEY OBJECTIVE BALANCE**

Council action regarding this Agreement satisfies the three Key Objectives of Customer Satisfaction, Employee Satisfaction and Financial Management. Customer Satisfaction is derived from the improvement and long-term reliability of a potable water source, as well as increased service levels for customers within the UGM 501s area. Employee Satisfaction is based upon the utilization of technical expertise to complete a successful project, providing recognition, growth and the satisfaction of accomplishment. Financial Management benefits include recovery of expended City funds and future costs associated with groundwater pumping and groundwater contamination remediation.

## **BACKGROUND**

Development plans for Tract 5188 at the southwest corner of Butler and Temperance Avenues include installation and extension of District Master Plan storm drain facilities to within approximately 850 feet of the Briggs Canal (source of water for recharge). The timely extension and construction of the canal intertie connection and Master Plan facilities along Butler Avenue will reduce future installation costs and provide additional groundwater recharge benefits.

Basin BM encompasses a total area of 29.8 acres. In 1989, a geotechnical investigation was performed by BSK Associates, which included the drilling of twenty-two test borings. Test boring results indicated exceptional recharge potential.

Currently, Basin BM has the greatest potential for successful groundwater recharge in SE Fresno. The high volume of recharge at this location would assist in the remediation of historic nitrate and DBCP groundwater contamination, and supplement available groundwater within the City's fast growing UGM 501s area. This Basin is a key component in ensuring that the existing community and new area developments will have a reliable water supply for many years.

In mutual recognition of the potential benefits of the re-designation of Basin BM to recharge, the City, District, and Department of Parks and Recreation are dedicated to a One Fresno approach in addressing alternative regional and area park plans. This cooperative approach has resulted in a similar evaluation of District Basin DH2 at 7620 N. Ingram Avenue (9.03 acres), wherein site conditions warranted a "best-use" re-designation to Recreation.

Discussions related to Basins BM and DH2 held at a meeting on March 8, 2006, by the District, the City Water Division, and the Department of Parks and Recreation serve as a catalyst in the development of a more scientific approach to specific site conditions and area needs in establishing criteria for "best beneficial use" of undeveloped, current and future storm drain basin sites.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for this project has been included in the FY07 SE Fresno Bond Fund (WC00033). No additional funds will be required.