



SCV Water Agency Water Resources and Watershed Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Committee Meeting Begins at 5:30 PM

Members of the public may attend by the following options:

IN PERSON

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
Engineering Services Section
Boardroom
26521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

BY PHONE

Toll Free: 1-(833)-568-8864
Webinar ID: 160 606 1391

VIRTUALLY

Please join the meeting from your
computer, tablet or smartphone:
scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1606061391

Have a Public Comment?

Members of the public unable to attend this meeting may submit comments either in writing to ekang@scvwa.org or by mail to Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM. the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable, and posted on the SCV Water website the following day. All correspondence with comments, including letters or emails, will be posted in their entirety. (Public comments take place during Item 2 of the Agenda and before each Item is considered. Please see the Agenda for details.)

This meeting will be recorded and the audio recording for all Committee meetings will be posted to yourSCVwater.com within 3 business days from the date of the Committee meeting.

Disclaimer: Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Committee meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

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Date: February 7, 2024

To: **Water Resources and Watershed Committee**
Piotr Orzechowski, Chair
William Cooper
Dirk Marks
Gary Martin

From: Steve Cole, Assistant General Manager

The **Water Resources and Watershed Committee** meeting for **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:30 PM** at **26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350** in the **Engineering Services Section (ESS) Boardroom**. Members of the public may attend in person or virtually. To attend this meeting virtually, please see below.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 160 606 1391 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1606061391**. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is being provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in person.

Attendees should be aware that while the Agency is following all applicable requirements and guidelines regarding COVID-19, the Agency cannot ensure the health of anyone attending a Committee meeting. Attendees should therefore use their own judgment with respect to protecting themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

Members of the public unable to attend this meeting may submit comments either in writing to ekang@scvwa.org or by mail to Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 4:00 PM the day of the meeting will be made available at the meeting, if practicable, and will be posted on the SCV Water website the following day. All correspondence with comments, including letters or emails, will be posted in their entirety.

MEETING AGENDA

| <u>ITEM</u> | | <u>PAGE</u> |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | <u>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u> | |
| 2. | <u>PUBLIC COMMENTS</u> – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are not on the Agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this Agenda may do so at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Committee Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) To participate in public comment from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click the “raise hand” feature in Zoom. You will be notified when it is your turn to speak, please unmute when requested. To participate in public comment via phone, dial *9 to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, dial *6 to unmute. | |
| 3. | * Recommend Authorizing the General Manger to Enter into Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement | 1 |
| 4. | Water Resources Director’s Report: | |
| | 4.1 Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study | |
| | 4.2 Status of Water Supplies | |
| | 4.3 Staff Activities | |
| 5. | Sustainability Manager’s Report: | |
| | 5.1 Conservation Program Performance Overview | |
| | 5.2 Staff Activities | |
| 6. | * Committee Planning Calendar | 5 |
| 7. | Adjournment | |
| * | Indicates Attachment | |
| ◆ | Indicates Handout | |

NOTICES:

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, Executive Assistant, at (661) 297-1600, or email to ekang@scvwa.org or by writing to Eunie Kang, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 26501 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at yourSCVwater.com.

Posted on February 7, 2024

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COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 7, 2024

TO: Water Resources and Watershed Committee

FROM: Najwa Pitois, Ph.D., P.E.
Senior Water Resources and Data Scientist *NP*

SUBJECT: Recommended Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement under the Water Resilience Initiative

SUMMARY

SCV Water is seeking to enhance its existing groundwater flow model to assess improved management strategies for the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR) East Basin in the context of an integrated resources management strategy under the Water Resilience Initiative (WRI). To carry out this work, staff is requesting authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with INTERA Incorporated (INTERA) as discussed below.

DISCUSSION

In Summer of 2021, SCV Water issued a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the WRI through PlanetBids, resulting in a qualified panel of consultants upon which to draw for future work. The multi-year WRI adopts a systems approach to water resource management and is focused on examining the linkages between pumping in the local groundwater basin and functional flows and ecology in the Santa Clara River and overall water supply reliability.

Subsequently, in Summer of 2022, SCV Water developed a draft work plan for its WRI to address the coordinated management of its water supply system, ecosystem, and groundwater system and promote watershed resilience staff identified additional expertise needed to address some of the tasks anticipated in the draft workplan that were not part of the original RFQ solicitation. The additional required expertise falls broadly under:

- Structured Decision-Making and Community Engagement
- Integrated Groundwater Management
- Data Collection and Management

On August 29, 2023, a refined RFQ for the WRI was advertised on PlanetBids seeking qualifications for the above areas of expertise. Nine (9) proposals were received and a five-member panel of SCV Water staff evaluated the proposals, selecting seven (7) pre-qualified consultants for future work.

On December 14, 2023, a Request for Task Order Proposals for Integrated Groundwater Management was released via email to the two highest scoring consultants that qualified for the refined WRI RFQ. SCV Water invited INTERA and Woodard & Curran to submit Task Order Proposals to assist in the development of analytical tools to better enable utilization of the existing groundwater flow model (model) to produce analyses that are essential to timely

decision-making under the WRI. Staff evaluated the proposals from the two consultants and found that INTERA provided a scope of work that addressed the proposed groundwater evaluation needs in a comprehensive manner, considering the broader objectives of the WRI. INTERA also proposed innovative approaches for assistance in prioritizing future alternative groundwater management actions. Therefore, staff recommended INTERA to perform the work.

As SCV Water undertakes substantive improvements to the groundwater flow model, it is essential that groundwater analyses support decisions regarding investments in new groundwater development programs and major planning efforts including:

- Functional Flow Evaluations
- Updates to the Urban Water Management Plan
- Updates to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

These new tools or improvements in existing tools and applications to the existing groundwater flow model under this Task Order would be evaluated and recommended to provide:

- Improved representation and visualization of model output.
- Improved quality of input to the model.
- Processes or criteria for prioritizing proposed alternative groundwater management evaluations, developed and discussed in collaboration with agency staff, in relation to the WRI needs as described in the WRI work plan and RFQ.
- Automated modeling to reduce costs of conducting necessary simulations.

STRATEGIC PLAN NEXUS

The scope of work under this Task Order will help meet the Agency's Strategic Plan Goal C. Water Supply and Resource Sustainability: Implement programs to ensure the service area has reliable and sustainable supplies of water.

Strategy C.1 Conduct planning to ensure long-term water demands are met.

- C.1.2 Identify projects and initiate planning for projects to enhance long-term water supply reliability consistent with the updated Water Supply Reliability Report.
- C.1.5 Monitor climate change science and public policy. Incorporate climate change impacts on water demand and supplies into long-term plans and programs to maintain reliable and sustainable water supplies.

Strategy C.3 Advance the integrated management of water resources.

- C.3.5 Coordinate and analyze performance of water banking and exchange programs, local groundwater production and water conservation measures.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funding for this work is included in the FY 2024 and FY 2025 Capital Budget. However, depending on data availability and evolving needs of the agency, current and future budgets and schedules may need to be adjusted to accommodate this project.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Water Resources and Watershed Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvements in the amount of \$195,788.

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February 14, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement Under the Water Resilience Initiative
2. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Studies
 - Status of Water Supplies
 - Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report:
 - Conservation Program Updates and Performance Overview
 - Staff Activities

February 20, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Approve Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into a Contract with INTERA Incorporated for Groundwater Flow Model Improvement Under the Water Resilience Initiative

March 13, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Approval and Adoption of the Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan
2. Delta Conveyance Project Future Planning 2025-2027
3. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of New Drop Program
 - Status of Water Supplies
 - Staff Activities
4. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

April 2, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Approval and Adoption of the Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan
2. Delta Conveyance Project Future Planning 2025-2027

April 10, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report:
 - Status of Water Supply
 - Review of Banking Storage Program Study (WestWater Research)
 - Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

May 15, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Recommend Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into MOU with Antelope Valley East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank
2. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
3. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

June 4, 2024 Board Meeting

1. Approval of Authorizing the General Manager to Enter into MOU with Antelope Valley East Kern Water District to Fund Planning Costs for a Portion of the Proposed Phase 2 Proposed High Desert Water Bank

June 12, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

July 10, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

August 14, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

September 11, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

October 9, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

November 13, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities

December 11, 2024 Committee Meeting

1. Water Resources Manager Report – Staff Activities
2. Sustainability Manager Report – Staff Activities