

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster, California

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MVB

Date: February 10, 2009

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Public Works Director

Subject: **Lancaster’s Participation in a Memorandum of Understanding with Various Public Agencies of the Antelope Valley to Continue Cooperative Implementation of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**

Recommendation:

Authorize and direct the Mayor to sign the “Agreement on the Implementation of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan”. Direct staff to continue to work with the Regional Water Management Group to achieve regional water supply objectives. Designate the Public Works Director to be the Lancaster representative with the Deputy City Manager as alternate.

Fiscal Impact:

Entering into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) does not obligate the City to additional expenditures except as they may be separately and independently proposed to the City Council by future reports and recommendations of City staff.

Background:

By previous actions of the City Council, Lancaster agreed to participate as a member of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and to assist in the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The IRWMP, required by the State Department of Water Resources to qualify regions for grant funding for water supply and management projects, was completed in December of 2007. The IRWMP was adopted by the City Council by two actions in December 2007 and January 2008. The other ten agencies of the RWMG also approved the IRWMP which was forwarded to and accepted by the State together with our regional request for \$25 million in grant funding.

The Antelope Valley Region was not successful in receiving funding under that cycle of grant availability. California voters approved bond measures in November 2006 that will soon offer additional water resource grant opportunities. It is necessary to continue the previous work of the RWMG as documented by the IRWMP. The previously approved MOU covered only the cooperative efforts to prepare the IRWMP at which time it was dissolved. It is necessary, if the region is to continue cooperative undertakings for water future reliability, that a new MOU be adopted by those agencies that previously agreed to work together on this important, valley-wide issue.

During the past thirteen months, representatives of each participant to the RWMG have been

negotiating a new MOU. Recently, legal counsel for each member agency continued the earlier negotiations ultimately agreeing to the attached MOU.

JRW:vp

Attachment:
Agreement