



Legislation Text

File #: 21-405, Version: 1

Memorandum

Date: May 11, 2021

To: The Honorable Bruno Sabatier, Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

From: Scott De Leon, Public Works/Water Resources Director

Subject: Consideration of Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's request for emergency lake water diversion

Executive Summary: (include fiscal and staffing impact narrative):

Staff was recently contacted by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFLWCD) following a request by the Cal Pine Corporation for an emergency water diversion from Clear Lake. As your Board is aware, Cal Pine utilizes water injection for the purpose of steam generation within their Geysers operations. The injected water consists of treated effluent from Lake and Sonoma Counties, as well as water diverted directly from Clear Lake. Cal Pine has notified YCFLWCD that the Sonoma County portion of injection water will be interrupted due to a construction project that will temporarily stop all flows from that region, and they have requested approval for an emergency water diversion from Clear Lake to replace the lost volume. According to Cal Pine officials, the amount of water being requested is 250 acre-feet of water, and they have requested an emergency Diversion and Use Agreement from YCFLWCD. Under normal circumstances this request would not be problematic, however with the certainty of drought conditions looming for Lake County, any intentional removal of water from the lake should be closely considered. YCFLWCD staff have respectively requested support for the diversion from Lake County, and due to the complexity of issues surrounding the request, staff is deferring to the Board of Supervisors for the decision. Staff offers the following information for your Board's consideration:

- The requested amount (250 acre-feet) equals approximately 1/16" of water over the surface area of the lake;
- During the peak summer months, the lake loses approximately 900 acre-feet of water, *per day*, due to evaporation;
- According to Cal Pine, the emergency water will help prevent some serious maintenance and operational issues, as well as provide much needed fire suppression supplies. Additionally, Cal Pine suggests that if power generation is reduced or suspended due to low water supplies, this could have negative impacts to future geothermal royalties;

If not budgeted, fill in the blanks below only:

Estimated Cost: _____ Amount Budgeted: _____ Additional Requested: _____ Future Annual Cost: _____

- Consistency with Vision 2028 and/or Fiscal Crisis Management Plan** (check all that apply): Not applicable
- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well-being of Residents | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Technology Upgrades</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Revenue Generation</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Process Efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cost Savings</i> |

If request for exemption from competitive bid in accordance with County Code Chapter 2 Sec. 2-38, fill in blanks below:

Which exemption is being requested?
How long has Agreement been in place?
When was purchase last rebid?
Reason for request to waive bid?

Recommended Action:

Should your Board agree to support the request made by the Cal Pine Corporation, staff has prepared and attached a draft letter of support for your consideration.

Should your Board disagree with the request, your vote to not prepare a letter of support will be sufficient.