



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: October 2, 2018

Agenda Item 6E  
Approvals:  
City Manager [Signature]  
Dept. Head [Signature]  
Attorney [Signature]  
Finance [Signature]

**Department:** Utilities  
**Prepared By:** Dave Rebensdorf, Utilities Director DR

**Subject:** *SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WATER STORAGE COALITION LETTER OF INTEREST.*

**Fiscal Impact:** None at this time. In the future, if the City decides to participate in a project, separate City Council action will be required.

**Summary:** Staff recommends that the City Council authorize a letter of interest to participate in the formation of a South Orange County Water Storage Coalition to review and pursue potential water storage opportunities.

**Background:** Due to the topography and geology of South Orange County, there are limited local resources for water storage and supply. In contrast, Central and Northern Orange County have large aquifers where they utilize groundwater as their primary source of water and storage in case of temporary imported water supply outages from Metropolitan Water District (MET). In an effort to improve water supply reliability, Santa Margarita Water District is proposing the formation of a South Orange County Water Storage Coalition to evaluate and potentially participate in regional or local storage opportunities. The recommended letter of interest is the first step in determining which agencies are interested in forming a coalition. The next step is to meet with interested parties to develop strategies to proceed.

**Discussion:** The City is highly dependent upon imported water from MET which receives water from Northern California and the Colorado River. Approximately 80% of the City's water supply is from MET, 15% from recycled water produced at the City's Water Reclamation Plant, and 5% from City owned wells. The dependency on imported water leaves the City vulnerable to water supply reductions due to drought, emergency outages in MET's supply or at Diemer Water Plant in Yorba Linda. In an effort to improve the City's supply reliability as recommended in the City's 2006 Water Master Plan, the City has developed local projects and participated in regional projects. The projects include: Upper Chiquita Reservoir, recycled water expansion, an interconnection with Irvine Ranch Water District and Baker Filtration Plant through an Agreement with Trabuco Canyon Water District.

The expansion of local emergency and permanent supply/storage has increased the City's ability to withstand an imported water supply outage from five to 23 days (assuming average demand). It has been the City's practice to improve water system and supply reliability when feasible and as projects become available. Municipal Water District of Orange County have suggested agencies consider a goal of achieving supply and storage to meet 60 days of average demand in the event of an imported outage from MET.

The letter of interest is non-binding and is another opportunity for South Orange County Agencies and Cities to explore regional opportunities. Staff is recommending submitting the letter with a supply or storage long range goal of meeting 75 percent of 60 average days of demand, but continuing its past practice of evaluating and participating in projects that are feasible. Based on the current storage and supply, an estimated additional 890 gallons per minute of water supply or 77 million gallons of storage is needed. For reference, in the future if the City decided to achieve supply or storage to meet 60 average days of demand during a MET outage, the amount of water equates to approximately 2,200 gallons per minute or 190 million gallons of storage.

There are several potential projects the proposed coalition will evaluate. The projects include: Irvine Lake storage for Baker Filtration Plant, expansion of existing Orange County Water District Agreement for a longer time (i.e. 60 days), Irvine Ranch Water District Strand Ranch, Chino Basin, and potential storage agreement with Orange County Water District for emergency storage in the Orange County Basin.

**Recommended**

**Action:** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council authorize the Utilities Director to sign a non-binding letter of interest to Santa Margarita Water District for the formation of a South Orange County Water Storage Coalition.

**Attachments:** None.

**Notification:** None.

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