

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: October 12, 2011

Board Item: V-A-9

Cooperative Stream Gauging Program with the U. S. Geological Survey

Action by Consent

Action

Information

As part of the program of protection, development and operation of Denver's raw water system, the Board has historically obtained the assistance of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) in the installation, operation and maintenance of certain stream gauging stations. This assistance has been made possible through annual cooperative agreements, the most recent of which expired on September 30, 2011.

These gauging stations are critical to the operation of Denver's water system, and Denver has historically received excellent service from the USGS. Unfortunately, Denver's portion of the total cost has been gradually increasing because the USGS contributions have not kept pace with rising costs.

As requested by the USGS, we are transitioning from agreements aligned with the Federal fiscal year (October 1 – September 30) to calendar year agreements. To accomplish the transition, this particular agreement covers the 15 month period from October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012. Subsequent agreements will be based on calendar years.

Staff has been and will continue to seek ways to keep our stream gauging expenditures in check. We dropped the "Darling Creek near Leal" gauging station from this year's program. Since 2002, a total of 15 gauging stations have been dropped from the program, one station has been discontinued for the winter months, and three additional organizations have agreed to reimburse a small portion of Denver's costs.

Under Contract No. 13886A, the USGS is willing to operate and maintain the 25 gauging stations on the attached list for a 15 month period at a total cost of \$486,685. The breakdown of this total cost is as follows:

National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP):	\$ 49,310
USGS Cooperative Program:	\$119,060
Denver Water:	\$318,315

Total:	\$486,685
Expected reimbursements to Denver Water:	\$ 45,197
Net cost to Denver Water:	\$273,118

In the 2012 budget, \$262,000 has been set aside for this agreement. The USGS will be invoicing Denver quarterly, and the final invoice will not be paid until 2013. The invoices to be paid in 2012 will be close to the \$262,000 figure. The master plan code for this agreement is 1AI0011.

Recommendation:

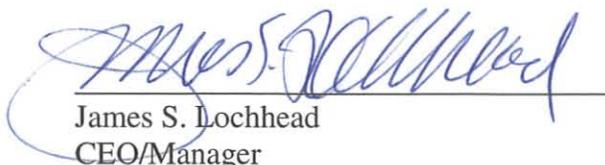
It is recommended that the Board enter into the attached intergovernmental agreement with the USGS providing for the operation of the 25 gauging stations during the period October 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. A list of the stations to be operated under the proposed agreement is attached.

Approvals:

Respectfully submitted,



Dave Little
Director of Planning



James S. Lochhead
CEO/Manager



Patricia L. Wells
General Counsel