

DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: October 7, 2009

Board Item: V-A-3

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, 2009.

The USGS is willing to operate and maintain the 26 gauging stations on the attached list at a *total* cost of \$396,860. The breakdown of this total cost is as follows:

National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP):	\$ 38,710
USGS Cooperative Program:	\$104,330
<u>Denver Water:</u>	<u>\$253,820</u>
Total:	\$396,860
Expected reimbursements to Denver Water:	\$ 33,443
Net cost to Denver Water:	\$220,377

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.

Staff has been and will continue to seek ways to keep our stream gauging expenditures in check. We have dropped the "Bear Creek above Bear Creek Lake" gauging station from this year's program because it is no longer needed. Seven Eagle County gauging stations were dropped from the FY2009 contract because the settlement of the Eagle River Basin diligence cases made them unnecessary. Since 2002, a total of 14 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.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board enter into the attached intergovernmental agreement with the USGS providing for the operation of 26 gauging stations during the period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. The total cost to the Board will be \$253,820, of which \$33,443 will be reimbursed, resulting in a net cost of \$220,377. A list of the stations to be operated under the proposed agreement is attached.

Approvals:

ACTING


Director of Planning

Respectfully submitted,



H. J. Barry, Manager



General Counsel