

# DENVER BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012

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 expires on December 31, 2012.

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. 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. 14679A, the USGS is willing to operate and maintain the 26 gauging stations on the attached list for a 12 month period at a total cost of \$410,885. The breakdown of this total cost is as follows:

National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP):	\$ 40,180
USGS Funds:	\$ 96,975
Denver Water:	\$273,730
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Total:	\$410,885
Expected reimbursements to Denver Water:	\$ 36,835
Net cost to Denver Water:	\$236,895

In the 2013 budget, \$290,000 has been set aside for this agreement. The USGS will be invoicing Denver quarterly, and the final invoice under this agreement will not be paid until 2014. The invoices to be paid in 2013 will be close to the \$273,730 figure. The master plan code for this agreement is 1AI0011.

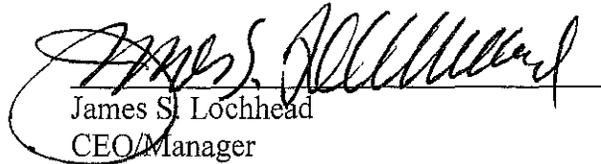
Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board enter into the attached intergovernmental agreement with the USGS providing for the operation of the 26 gauging stations during the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. A list of the stations to be operated under the proposed agreement is attached.

**Approvals:**

Respectfully submitted,

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Dave Little  
Director of Planning

  
James S. Lochhead  
CEO/Manager

  
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Patricia L. Wells  
General Counsel