



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Suzy Watkins, Harbor Director
DATE: February 28, 2023
SUBJECT: Request for Partial Assignment of Water Rights

Recommendations / Proposed Motion

- **Recommendation:** Discuss and provide input to staff to inform further work on the subject request, no motion required.

Policy Implications

The Board of Commissioners approves policies governing the conduct of District business. The current request is a variance from policy. Board input is being requested prior to additional staff time on the item.

Fiscal Implications / Budget Status

Minor impact of County payment for water assigned.

Alternatives Considered

The following actions were considered but are not recommended at this time:

- None.

Discussion

The County of San Luis Obispo is in the process of constructing improvements to traffic flow at the interchange for US 101 and Avila Beach Drive. The project includes the installation of low-water landscape. Although this type of landscape is intended to use very little water, some predictable water supply is necessary to establish the new plants.

The County has approached the District and requested the temporary assignment of one acre foot of water from the District's water allocation for a period up to three years following construction completion.

District policy limits the sale of District water rights. Staff believes this policy is prudent in light of unknown future water supply constraints and unknown demands of future District development. However, the current request is for a very limited amount of water for a temporary term. The District is able to make exceptions to policy if it is in District interests. Staff recommends your Board consider a policy variance to cooperate in this regional

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transportation improvement and in the spirit of collaboration with another governmental agency.

A draft form of assignment has been provided by the County for review and discussion. A version of the draft is attached for your reference. If your Board is favorably inclined toward the concept of the request, staff will request additional changes to clarify District interests in the agreement and return at a future meeting for Board discussion and approval of an executable document.

Attachment: Draft Partial Assignment of Water Rights to Water Supply