

SUBJECT: Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study

Meeting	Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
Management Committee	April 8, 2015	Discussion/Action	9

REQUESTED ACTION/SUGGESTED MOTION

Management Committee will be asked to concur with PAG's letter of support.

ASSOCIATED OWP WORK ELEMENT/GOAL

- Work Element 1510, Regional Sustainability Planning and Coordination
- Work Element 1511, Water Planning and Regional Coordination

SUMMARY

PAG is partnering with the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA) to submit a *Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study* proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's Basin Study Program. This three-year project will evaluate current and future water supply and demand imbalances in the Tucson Active Management Area. The study will provide a better understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change on water resources, with the goal of identifying where wet water transfers are needed in order to mitigate impacts and ensure water reliability for municipal, agricultural and environmental sectors. SAWUA is a nonprofit organization of municipal water and wastewater providers and agricultural water users that is working cooperatively to enhance southern Arizona's water resources. PAG will bring technical expertise, enhanced stakeholder engagement, communications support and data to the project. PAG will also inform and engage decision makers through presentations to its Management Committee and Regional Council.

The *Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study* proposal must be submitted by April 30, 2015, and the estimated value is between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. SAWUA, PAG and other partners will provide the 50/50 in-kind match, but no local financial contribution is required. If successful, the study will begin in fall 2015. The support of PAG will enhance the proposal when it is considered for funding by the national Reclamation-wide application review committee.

PRIOR BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION

None.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

In-kind contributions only.

TECHNICAL, POLICY, LEGAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

ATTACHED ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION

Draft letter of support.

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