

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Anastasia Seims, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Vacant, Director

Watershed Protection
Jeff Palmer, Director

October 29, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for the Watershed Protection District Director to Sign the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a General Reevaluation Report Feasibility Study of Santa Clara River Levee Segment 1, New Start Project, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for a cost of \$1,500,000, from FY 2025 to 2028; Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to Process the Necessary Accounting Transaction; Watershed Protection District Zone 2; Supervisorial District No. 3. RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement between the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to cost share for the General Reevaluation Report Feasibility Study of Santa Clara River Levee Segment 1 (SCR-1) to be conducted by the USACE, for a cost of \$1,500,000 from FY 2025 to 2028; and
2. Authorize the Watershed Protection District Director to execute and sign the Agreement; and
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the accounting transactions necessary to increase appropriations in Fund S720 as follows (4/5ths vote required).

INCREASE 4220-4221 Services and Supplies	\$350,000
DECREASE Fund Balance Restricted Public Protection	\$350,000

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Watershed Protection District Zone 2
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Department(s):	None



Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:

		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28</u>
Revenue:	\$	0	\$ 0
Costs:			
Direct	\$	329,800	\$ 1,069,200
Indirect – Agency/Dept.	\$	19,350	\$ 77,400
Indirect – County CAP	\$	850	\$ 3,400
Total Costs	\$	350,000	\$ 1,150,000
Net Costs	\$	350,000	\$ 1,150,000
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$	0	\$ 0

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for Watershed Protection District Zone 2 - Unit 4221				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 3,602,600	\$ 3,602,600	\$ 3,602,600	\$ 0
Revenue	\$17,693,500	\$17,693,500	\$17,693,500	\$ 0
Net Cost	(\$14,090,900)	(\$14,090,900)	(\$14,090,900)	\$ 0

Sufficient appropriations will be available in the FY 2024-25 Zone 2 Adjusted Budget after approval of Recommendation No.3. Sufficient appropriations will be included in the future budgets through FY 2027-28 Budgets, as appropriate.

Discussion:

The Santa Clara River Levee Segment 1 (SCR-1) is comprised of 4.72 miles of levee, 75 groins, 1 side drain without a flap gate, 6 side drains with flap gates, 1 side drain with a stop-log closure, 1 commercial side drain and 2 bridge crossings; see Exhibits 1 and 2, Vicinity and Location maps. The SCR-1 levee system was designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1961 and is owned and maintained by the District.

In August 2013, USACE prepared a draft initial appraisal report for SCR-1. This report was to determine whether there is a potential Federal interest to undertake modifications to the existing SCR-1 project. The report identified several issues with the integrity of the SCR-1 flood protection features including inadequate toedown of the revetment, rock used for channel revetment, groins being of inadequate size and quality, and the levee



configuration being inadequate to protect surrounding properties. The report concluded that there is sufficient potential for increasing public safety and the continued provision of flood risk management benefits to warrant a Federal interest in investigating the feasibility of modifying the SCR-1 system by preparing a Reconnaissance Phase report. However, USACE was unable to secure additional funding at the time to continue to the next phase.

Additionally, work previously conducted by the District as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Levee Certification program determined that the SCR-1 levee system does not meet federal requirements under 44 CFR 65.10. As part of the FEMA Levee Certification work, a field investigation was performed that identified deficiencies in the SCR-1 levee system which requires rehabilitation. Without certification, it is expected that future FEMA floodplain mapping of the Santa Clara River will cause parts of the City of Oxnard and adjacent unincorporated areas, including parts of the community of El Rio, to be designated as part of a Special Flood Hazard Area.

USACE received \$200,000 in their FY24 appropriations to initiate a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) as a new start and to conduct a feasibility study report. The report will evaluate project alternatives and federal interest for project improvements to achieve channel capacity for the anticipated increases in peak flood flows and to protect the remaining flood-prone areas, which are subject to flooding during a 1% chance storm.

USACE has provided the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA), Exhibit 3, for an estimated \$3 million cost to complete the GRR feasibility study in three years, with a 50% contribution of the non-federal (local) sponsor. A project management plan will be developed from approval and initial monies contributed to this FCSA. The plan will define the tasks and responsibilities for the USACE and the local sponsor to perform the work.

The local sponsor's share of FCSA costs is projected to be \$1,500,000, which includes creditable in-kind contributions projected to be \$500,000, with the projected amount of \$1,000,000 in funds to meet the local sponsor's cost share. The local funds will be supplied over three years, starting at the execution of the FCSA, from Watershed Protection District, Zone 2 funds.

Strategic Plan:

This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors (Board's) 2024-2027 strategic priority to provide:

- III. Reliable infrastructure and sustainability through
 - 3. Investing in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and preservation of our natural resources.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact the undersigned at (805) 654-2040.



Sincerely,



Jeff Palmer, P.E.
Director
Watershed Protection District

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 - Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2 - Location Map
- Exhibit 3 - Feasibility Cost Share Agreement

