

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
James O'Tousa, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

November 07, 2023

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

Subject: Approval of and Authorization for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Director or His Designee to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement for Casitas Municipal Water District staff support for the Robles Diversion Preliminary Design Project in the amount of \$63,193.92; Ratification of Casitas Municipal Water District staff support work completed since July 1, 2023; Project No. P6081924, Supervisorial District No. 1, Watershed Protection District Zone No. 1.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Casitas Municipal Water District to provide staff support for the Robles Diversion Preliminary Design Project in the amount of \$63,193.92.
2. Authorize the District Director, or his designee, to execute the approved Memorandum of Agreement No. WP-1-2023-4.
3. Ratify Casitas Municipal Water District staff support work completed since July 1, 2023.

Reason for Ratification:

The Robles Diversion Preliminary Design Project was awarded on April 25, 2023. As work on Task 1 progressed, the need for early Casitas Municipal Water District staff support work was identified as necessary by July 1, 2023, to advance the project. There was insufficient time between the time the need was identified in late spring, 2023 and July 1, 2023, to secure a funding source, draft and finalize an agreement by both parties and to bring this Agreement before your Board for approval and authorization to execute. The Agreement is written to reimburse Casitas Municipal Water District for staff support of the Robles Diversion Preliminary Design Project for work completed since July 1, 2023, and was approved by the Casitas Municipal Water District Board of Directors on October 11, 2023.



Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: SCC (22-006)
Funding Match Required: No
Impact on Other Department(s): None

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:

		<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue:	\$	63,194	\$	0
Costs:				
Direct	\$	63,194	\$	0
Indirect – Agency/Dept.	\$	0	\$	0
Indirect – County CAP	\$	0	\$	0
Total Costs	\$	63,194	\$	0
Net Costs	\$	0	\$	0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$	0	\$	0

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for Zone 1 - Unit 4211				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 9,491,500	\$ 9,491,500	\$ 9,491,500	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 10,377,600	\$ 10,377,600	\$ 10,377,600	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ (886,100)	\$ (886,100)	\$ (886,100)	\$ 0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are available in the FY 2023-24 Watershed Protection District Zone 1 Adjusted Budget.

Discussion:

On November 1, 2022, your Board accepted a \$379,350 SCC Grant, (Exhibit 1) to complete preliminary design plans for the preferred Robles Project improvements that will facilitate natural sediment transport through and/or around the Robles Diversion on the Ventura River; enhance volitional fish passage across a range of flow conditions; improve the reliability of diversions into the Robles-Casitas Canal whenever hydrologic and permit conditions allow; and reduce flood risks at Robles and potentially for the nearby Meiners Oaks community. See Exhibits 2 and 3 for the Robles Project vicinity and location maps.

A redesign of Robles is one of six essential downstream infrastructure components of MDERP. MDERP is a watershed-scale initiative to safely remove the Matilija Dam after a



high-flow sediment release, enabling the re-wilding of Matilija Creek upstream of the current barrier to benefit federally endangered southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and other species in the Ventura River watershed.

A 'Work Program' was developed in accordance with the requirements of the SCC Grant that requires the assistance of staff from Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) to locate, retrieve and interpret pertinent data, coordinate the installation and operation of monitoring devices and programs, and to provide their operational knowledge critical to advancing the Robles Project improvements preliminary design.

Casitas operates and maintains the Robles Diversion Facility on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, making it the only essential MDERP component that is neither owned nor maintained by Ventura County. Matilija Dam cannot be removed unless/until agreed-upon improvements at Robles and all other essential components have been implemented. Casitas also owns and operates the Robles Fish Passage Facility. Water diversions for fish passage and for conveyance to Lake Casitas are governed by a 2003 Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Casitas' active engagement in the preliminary design planning process is key to formulating, testing, and consensus building for a preferred alternative for the proposed Robles improvements, and in completing design plans that Casitas believes it will be able to operate and maintain successfully in the years and decades ahead – before, during and after Dam removal.

Transmitted herewith is a Memorandum of Agreement (Exhibit 4) that provides for reimbursement to Casitas by the District up to the amount of \$63,193.92.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel.

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact the undersigned at (805) 654-2040.

Sincerely,



Glenn Shephard, P.E.
Director
Watershed Protection District

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – State Coastal Conservancy Grant No. 22-006
- Exhibit 2 – Project Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 3 – Project Location Map
- Exhibit 4 – Memorandum of Agreement WP-1-2023-4

