

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
James O'Tousa, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Vacant, Director

February 27, 2024

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

Subject: **Approval of, and Authorization for the Watershed Protection District Director to Sign, the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Cooperative Agreement with Various State and Local Government Entities for the Purpose of Developing Scientific and Technical Tools for Stormwater Programs With a First-Year Watershed Protection District Contribution of \$78,121; Authorize the Director to Extend the Term of Agreement No. SMC-2024-01. All Supervisorial Districts, All Zones.**

Recommendations:

1. Approve, and authorize the Watershed Protection District (District) Director or designee to sign, the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition Cooperative Agreement with various state and local government entities including a first-year contribution from the District of \$78,121 (Agreement No. SMC-2024-01) to develop scientific and technical tools for stormwater programs. (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorize the Director of the District to extend the term of Agreement No. SMC-2024-01 for a period not to exceed five years provided the extension does not result in the District being responsible for more than \$100,000 during any fiscal year and the extension is reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Watershed Protection District Benefit Assessment and Permittee Contribution
Funding Match Required:	N/A
Impact on Other Department(s):	None



Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u> <u>through FY</u> <u>2028-2029</u>
Revenue:	\$	0	\$ 239,060
Costs:			
Direct	\$	0	\$ 478,120
Indirect – Agency/Dept.			
Indirect – County CAP			
Total Costs	\$	0	\$ 478,120
Net Costs	\$	0	\$ 239,060

Recovered Indirect Costs

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

Current FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for Watershed Protection District Zones 1, 2, 3 & 4 NPDES				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$2,443,925	\$3,540,752	\$3,429,734	\$ 111,018
Revenue	\$2,298,600	\$2,298,600	\$2,396,300	\$ 97,700
Net Cost	\$145,325	\$1,242,152	\$1,033,434	\$ 208,718

Sufficient appropriations and revenue will be included in FY2025-2029 Watershed Protection District Zones 1, 2, 3 & 4 NPDES budgets, as appropriate.

Discussion:

To better understand the urban stormwater impacts on receiving waters and develop more effective stormwater programs, both stormwater permittees and regulators have collaborated to form the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC). The SMC is a cooperative effort among the District; the Counties of Orange and San Diego; the Los Angeles and San Bernardino County Flood Control Districts; the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; the Cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego; the Regional Water Quality Control Boards for the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, San Diego Regions; the State Water Resources Control Board; the California Department of Transportation, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project .

Prompted by the underlying lack of scientific knowledge about stormwater while facing increasing regulatory requirements, on January 9, 2001, your Board approved the five-year research agenda agreement No. D99-072. The agreement cemented a collaborative working relationship between stormwater regulators and municipal stormwater agencies



throughout Southern California. This commitment was continued through Agreement No. 06-049, approved by your Board on February 6, 2007, for another five-year term. Both agreements provided that individual projects would be later identified, funded, and conducted through separate Supplemental Research Implementation Agreements. Since then, your Board has approved several Supplemental Research Implementation Agreements, including projects on integrated bioassessment monitoring and low-impact development. On January 27, 2015, your Board approved Agreement No. D13-014 which continued this cooperative stormwater research work for another five years and authorized the District Director to sign one five-year extension to agreement No. D13-014. The five-year extension to agreement No. D13-014 was signed by the District Director on February 12, 2019.

Approval of Agreement No. SMC-2024-01 continues the cooperative work under the stormwater research agenda for another five years. Entering into Agreement No. SMC-2024-01 does not commit the District to participate in projects identified in the annual budget. Projects will be identified by the SMC Steering Committee through a robust research agenda planning exercise, and the funding of each project is optional, with each member's annual cost share capped at \$100,000. Projects generally receive broad support from SMC members, with the District's commitment for the first year of the new agreement (FY 2024-25) being \$78,121.

The District will only fund projects that support the development of scientific and technical tools for stormwater program implementation, assessment and monitoring that will benefit, and are approved by, the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Ventura Countywide Program). The Ventura Countywide Program consists of Ventura County local governments responsible for complying with the 2021 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's stormwater permit, specifically the District, the County, and the ten cities of Ventura County. Under the current Ventura Countywide Program agreement, the District will receive a contribution from these permittees of at least 50 percent of the cost of any SMC projects in which the Ventura Countywide Program chooses to participate.

Exhibit 1 of this letter includes Agreement No. SMC 2024-01. Exhibit 2 includes the adopted FY 2024-25 budget and Work Plan, with cost-sharing breakdown.

The District recommends approval of and authorization for the District Director to sign the attached Agreement No. SMC-2024-01, a five-year cooperative agreement for participation in the SMC. The agreement aims to improve effective stormwater management and regulation. Under Agreement No. SMC-2024-01, the District will fund only projects it chooses to participate in with annual commitments limited to \$100,000.



Strategic Plan:

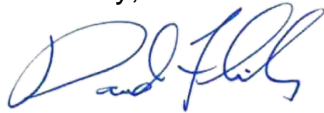
This item contributes to the Board's 2024-2027 strategic priority to provide:

- 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 you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Arne Anselm at (805) 654-3942 or the undersigned at (805) 654-2040.

Sincerely,



David Fleisch, P.E.
Assistant Director

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – 2024 SMC Master Agreement No. SMC-2024-01

Exhibit 2 – FY 2024-25 SMC Adopted Budget and Workplan

