

Central Services
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Jeff Palmer, Director

July 23, 2024

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

Subject: Receive and File Report of Amendments to Existing Grant Agreements Between the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and the Watershed Protection District (District) for the Robles Diversion Design Grant (SCC-22-006) in the Amount of \$3,200,000; and for Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project: Preconstruction Activities (SCC-22-157) in the Amount of \$4,600,000. Watershed Protection District Zone No. 1, Supervisorial District No. 1

Recommendation:

Receive and file report of amendments to existing grant agreements (Exhibits 5 and 6) between the Watershed Protection District (District) and the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP): Robles Diversion Design Grant (SCC-22-006) in the amount of \$3,200,000 (Exhibit 3) and MDERP: Preconstruction Activities Project (SCC-22-157) in the amount of \$4,600,000 (Exhibit 4).

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	SCC
Funding Match Required:	None
Impact on Other Departments:	None

<u>Summary of Revenues & Costs:</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>	<u>FY 2025-26 through 2028-29</u>
Revenue:	\$ 1,400,411	\$ 6,399,589
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 2,800,821	\$ 4,999,179
Indirect/Agency Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect/County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 2,800,821	\$ 4,999,179
Net District Costs	\$(1,400,410)	\$ 1,400,410
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0



Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections

Current FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for Zone 1 - Unit 4211				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$9,580,000	\$9,580,000	\$9,580,000	\$0
Revenue	\$13,539,200	\$13,539,200	\$13,539,200	\$0
Net Cost	(\$3,959,200)	(\$3,959,200)	(\$3,959,200)	\$0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are available in the FY 2024-25 Watershed Protection District Zone 1 budget. Sufficient revenue and appropriations will be included in FY 2025-2026 budget as appropriate. Resolutions authorizing execution of the original grant agreements authorized the Watershed District Director to execute any future modifications or amendments to those agreements as deemed appropriate by the funding agency.

Discussion:

On February 15, 2024, the SCC Board approved two amendments to already existing SCC District grants. The MDERP Robles Diversion Design Project (SCC-22-006) amendment, which provides \$3.2M in additional funding, for a total grant of \$3,579,350, will bring the funds needed to complete 10% design plans for two complex alternatives supported by stakeholder consensus based on estimates developed by Northwest Hydraulic Consultant's (NHC's) in their February 2023 proposal and additional analysis and engagement identified as necessary to advance the project. Funds are also included for ongoing assistance from and for Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) as part of the collaborative re-design effort including pilot-scale sediment monitoring for improved decision support, negotiation of an agreement with Watershed Protection regarding Casitas' role in CEQA certification and future design and implementation efforts, and full engagement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) PL 83-566 Ventura Watershed Plan process starting early in 2024. Casitas operates and maintains the Robles Diversion on behalf of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Costs are based on Casitas' December 2023 staff estimates, plus an estimated \$400K for contractual support which is comparable to the amount District received for contractual assistance with the NRCS Ventura River Watershed Plan under their California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023 Robles-Meiners Oaks 30% design planning grant. A portion of the contractual support total might also be used for monitoring based on NHC's draft monitoring plan and preliminary cost estimates from December 2023.



The MDERP Pre-Construction Activities (SCC-22-157) amendment totaling \$4.6M for a total grant funding of \$4,958,000, will fund the following additional MDERP planning priorities:

- Technical Studies including: Updated LiDAR, additional 2D sediment transport modeling, work with MDERP Contract Management Team experts to review, synthesize and update all prior and current sediment modeling results.
- Programmatic Planning to include: Risk Management Workshops with risk evaluation group as part of Risk Informed Design; Risk Management Plan including comprehensive MDERP Risk Matrix with quantification of project risks; Real Estate Implementation Strategy including General Appraisal of potentially impacted properties; Property surveys, appraisals, title reports and other parcel-specific due diligence to support timely future acquisition funding requests for up to 20 essential easement parcels for Live Oak Acres and Casitas Springs levee improvement projects; and Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for each MDERP component (as applicable).
- Community Outreach to include additional MDERP outreach to landowners, stakeholders, the public, and affected communities; and
- Tribal Engagement to include Stipends for Tribal Council members to attend Project Management Committee and/or other MDERP meetings, and contract agreements with one or more consulting experts endorsed by the local Tribal Council to assist the Tribe and the District.

In addition, both amendments will include additional Project Management funding to cover the additional work involved.

The District appreciates the willingness of California granting agencies to support the efforts to remove Matilija Dam and restore the Ventura River Watershed ecosystem. Their support has been key in allowing this project to advance at an accelerated pace over the last ten years.

A project vicinity map (Exhibit 1) and a project location map (Exhibit 2) are provided to help orient the reader to the location of the projects.

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 me at (805) 654-2040.



Jeff Palmer, P.E.
Director
Watershed Protection District

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Project Vicinity Map
- Exhibit 2 – Project Location Map
- Exhibit 3 – Executed Agreement 1
- Exhibit 4 – Executed Agreement 2
- Exhibit 5 – Amendment to Agreement 1
- Exhibit 6 – Amendment to Agreement 2

