

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Vacant, Director

Roads & Transportation
Anitha Balan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Vacant, Director

Watershed Protection
Jeff Palmer, Director

July 23, 2024

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

Subject: Authorize the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Director to Execute the Grant Agreement for \$1,473,000 in U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Funding for the Buyout and Demolition of a Single Family Home, Appurtenant Structures and Associated Property Along Coyote Creek Project No. P6081175. Watershed Protection District Zone 1, Supervisorial District 1.

Recommendations:

1. Authorize the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) Director to execute a grant agreement (sample - Exhibit 3) for \$1,473,000 in U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding for the Buyout and Demolition of a Single Family Home, Appurtenant Structures and Associated Property Along Coyote Creek Project. (Project No. P6081175).

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mandatory: | No |
| Source of Funding: | 75% NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) Funding |
| Funding Match Required: | 25% Zone 1 Funding |
| Impact on Other Departments: | None |

Summary of Revenues & Total Costs:

| | <u>FY 2024-25</u> | | <u>FY 2025-26</u> | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|---|
| Revenue: | \$ | 1,104,750 | \$ | 0 |
| Costs: | | | | |
| Direct | \$ | 1,473,000 | \$ | 0 |
| Indirect – Agency/Dept. | \$ | 0 | \$ | 0 |
| Indirect – County CAP | \$ | 0 | \$ | 0 |
| Total Costs | \$ | 1,473,000 | \$ | 0 |



| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|---------|----|---|
| Net Costs | \$ | 368,250 | \$ | 0 |
| 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 appropriations and revenue are included in the FY 2024-25 Adopted budget.

Discussion:

Coyote Creek is a District jurisdictional (Ordinance WP-2) channel that traverses private and County Parks property (Foster Park). The District has no flood control facility, easement, or right-of-way over the channel, and therefore activities have only been performed under emergency conditions with assistance and funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The project site is located in the floodway and 100-year floodplain.

This project, in conjunction with the Coyote Creek Pilot Channel Project, clears Coyote Creek (See Exhibits 1 and 2) of obstructions and develops a pilot channel to direct the flow of the creek, which is private property. Coyote Creek was significantly silted as a result of the January and February storms of 2023 and 2024. The property to be purchased and demolished is within the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Floodway. FEMA defines the Floodway as the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land area that is reserved from encroachment in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water-surface elevation by more than a designated height. Removing the structures and excavating a pilot channel on this property will increase the creek’s ability to convey storm flow.

Funding is available for the work through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP). NRCS administers the EWPP which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. The EWPP is a recovery effort aimed at relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Threats that the EWPP addresses are termed watershed impairments. NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the eligible construction cost of emergency measures. Initial discussions were held with NRCS and the District was informed in April 2024, that this project was eligible for 75% of the estimated project cost.



The California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) has a program that will fund 75% of the remaining local 25% cost share for this project. CalOES funding is only available at project completion. The District intends to apply to CalOES for reimbursement once the project has been completed and closed out by NRCS. The remaining funding will come from the District's Zone 1 budget.

Due to urgency to issue an offer to the property owner, your Board is requested to authorize the District Director to execute the NRCS Grant Agreement upon receipt since your Board is dark until September 10, 2024. We will return to your Board on September 10, 2024, with a notice of intent to purchase the property and again after the public notification process for approval to purchase the property. The intent is to do the demolition and pilot channel work at the same time or shortly after the pilot channel project.

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 letter 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 – Grant Agreement Sample

