

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Roads & Transportation
Christopher Kurgan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

March 14, 2023

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

Subject: **Approval of and Authorization for the Ventura County Public Works Agency Director or His Designee to Execute Modification No. 6 to Consultant Services Contract AE16-037, with Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. for an Additional Year of Bioassessment Services in the Increased Amount of \$70,892 including Extra Services, for a Total Contract Amount of \$431,761; Contract No. AE16-037; Project No. P6010565; All Supervisorial Districts. All Watershed Protection Zones.**

Recommendations:

1. Approve Modification No. 6 to the consultant services contract with Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. for Bioassessment Services for the additional amount of \$70,892 and a total contract amount of \$431,761.
2. Authorize the Ventura County Public Works Agency Director or his designee to execute Modification No. 6 (Exhibit 1) to contract AE16-037.

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 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenue:	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,446
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 40,000	\$ 30,892
Indirect – Agency/Dept.		
Indirect – County CAP		
Total Costs	\$ 40,000	\$ 30,892
Net District Costs	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,446
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$	\$

Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:

Current FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for Watershed Protection Zone 2 - Unit 4222				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$1,012,700	\$3,184,156	\$3,408,400	(\$224,244)
Revenue	\$1,029,100	\$1,173,850	\$1,174,210	\$360
Net Cost	(\$16,400)	\$2,010,306	\$2,234,190	(\$223,884)

Sufficient appropriations and revenue are available in the FY 2022-23 Zone 2 Projected Budget. Sufficient appropriations and revenues will be included in future budgets as appropriate.

Discussion:

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) is requesting approval to execute Modification No. 6 with the consulting firm Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. to provide biological assessment (bioassessment) assistance including labor, materials, analyses, and data management and reporting to comply with the 2010 Ventura Countywide Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) (2010 Permit) requirements, for an increased amount of \$70,892 for a total contract amount of \$431,761 including extra services. The District is acting on behalf of the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program), a cooperative effort of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, the County of Ventura, and the ten cities of Ventura County. Together, these other agencies are contributing 50 percent of the total cost of this contract.

Bioassessment is the science of evaluating the health of an ecosystem by assessing the organisms that live within it. Unlike traditional chemistry-based monitoring, bioassessment can account for living organisms exposed to multiple chemicals and other stressors (such as altered habitats and changes in life-sustaining water-flow patterns)



over extended time periods. Consequently, bioassessment has the potential to provide a more integrated reflection of the condition of an aquatic ecosystem. The information obtained is being evaluated by the State for potential ecosystem protection and including local data will make any future regulations more applicable to Ventura County Monitoring is targeted for the spring, at least four weeks after a scouring rain.

The District has been participating in the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition of Southern California's Regional Bioassessment Program (RBP) since 2010, as required by the 2010 Permit. In 2021, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issued the new Los Angeles Regional MS4 NPDES (2021 Permit) that supersedes the 2010 Permit, however the monitoring requirements of the 2010 Permit, including participation in the RBP, remain in effect until the Regional Board approves the new Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) which is under development by the Program and due to the Regional Board in September 2023. Data from the RBP will likely be used to set new state standards. It will benefit Ventura County to have local data used in a statewide effort to set new standards. The bioassessment monitoring season is typically from May – July, so monitoring will be required in 2023 under the 2010 Permit since it occurs prior to the submission and approval of the CIMP.

Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. was originally selected for this contract from a request for qualifications conducted in 2016. This contract was originally approved by your Board in 2016 for four years of monitoring (2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019) for a total contract amount of \$328,063. Efficient use of the approved funds and previous modifications which did not require Board approval allowed this contract to cover three additional years of monitoring (2020, 2021, and 2022). Modification No. 6 will add one year of monitoring to this contract to include the 2023 year, which will allow the Program to meet 2010 Permit requirements while they develop the CIMP and determine their level of RBP participation for the 2021 Permit. This Modification No. 6 will add funds to basic services to cover the 2023 monitoring year and add funds to extra services to replace funds that were transferred from extra services to basic services in Modification No. 4.

Transmitted herewith is the consultant services contract Modification No. 6 that has been negotiated with Aquatic Bioassay & Consulting Laboratories, Inc. of Ventura, CA in accordance with the policy adopted by your Board on November 3, 1998. Modification No. 6 adds one year to the previous modification of this contract. The contract completion date is extended to July 30, 2024. Exhibit 1 describes all services to be provided under this modification. Total payment including extra services in the amount of \$24,065 shall not exceed \$431,761, without additional modification.

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

If you have any questions concerning this item, please contact Arne Anselm, Deputy Director, at 805-654-3942 or the undersigned at 805-654-2040.



Sincerely,



Glenn Shephard, P.E.
Director, Watershed Protection

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 – Modification No. 6 to Consultant Services Contract AE16-037

