

Central Services  
**Joan Araujo**, Director

Engineering Services  
**Christopher Cooper**, Director

Transportation  
**David Fleisch**, Director

Water & Sanitation  
**Joseph Pope**, Director

Watershed Protection  
**Glenn Shephard**, Director

October 22, 2019

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

**Subject:**     **Ratification of the Ventura County Watershed Protection District Notice of Intent Submittal for \$2,500,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program Funding for the Santa Clara River Levee 3 Completion Project (SCR-3). Watershed Protection District Zone 2, Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5**

**Recommendation:**

Ratify the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) Notice of Intent (NOI) submittal for \$2,500,000 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) funding for the Santa Clara River Levee 3 Completion Project (SCR-3).

**Reason for Ratification:**

The District was made aware of the September 18<sup>th</sup> submittal deadline for this PDM grant funding opportunity on September 3, 2019. Because of the short time frame between the decision to prepare the NOI (Exhibit 1) and the submittal deadline, there was insufficient time to seek approval from your Board to apply for the grant funds. Therefore, the District is seeking retroactive approval of the submittal. The District submitted the NOI with prior notification and approval of the County Executive Office.

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:**

If the NOI is approved for inclusion in the State of California application package, the District will return to your Board with additional project information and budget figures.

**Discussion:**



Authorized by the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5133, PDM is designed to help States, territories, federally-recognized tribes, and local communities to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters. Congressional appropriations provide funding for PDM. These funds can be used for mitigation projects and planning activities.

Application is a two-step process. The District prepared and submitted an NOI to the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on September 18, 2019. Cal OES, which will act as the applicant for PDM funding, will review all the submitted NOIs in order to select up to nine (9) projects to be included in the Cal OES application to FEMA. FEMA will then review each applicant's project package and select projects for funding.

The NOI for SCR-3 requests \$2.5 Million for the Completion Project, also known as "the gap". The SCR-3 levee system, consisting of earthen berms, was constructed by different agencies over many years, with different sections completed at different times for different purposes. Since 2007, the District has been working with FEMA to provide accreditation to the levee system. In June 2008, FEMA denied provisional accreditation to the levee system citing a lack of continuous flood protection due to gaps, inadequate freeboard, erosion and vegetation issues, substandard bank protection, and closure device deficiencies. The Completion Project is critical to the flood protection of nearly 9,000 residents south of the levee system, and infrastructure such as a cogeneration plant, municipal golf course, municipal landfill, and major hotel to the west, the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Bridge to the east, as well as a portion of a primary north-south artery, Ventura Road.

Due to increased flood flows present in the Santa Clara River Watershed, as shown by the District's 2006 analysis, the 100-year discharge at the Completion Project site has increased from 161,000 cfs in 1985 to 227,000 cfs. The watershed drains major portions of the cities of San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore, and the unincorporated community of Piru; as well as having headwaters in Los Angeles County. FEMA and the District have determined that the river could overflow its banks at the project site during a 100-year event, presenting a risk to the residential, commercial, and industrial properties and critical infrastructure, causing a high degree of property damage and potential disruption to the economy. Currently, Ventura Road in the vicinity of the UPRR Bridge floods during even minor rain events. For project location see Exhibit 2.

If the District is successful in being selected for inclusion in the Cal OES application, the District will return to your Board for approval to prepare the full sub-application to Cal OES for inclusion in their application.

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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Shephard", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Shephard P.E.  
Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – NOI for SCR-3
- Exhibit 2 - Project location map