



COUNTY OF VENTURA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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First District

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October 11, 2022

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

SUBJECT: **Approval for Supervisor LaVere to Appoint Brian Brennan as an Extra-Help Employee Following His Retirement to Fill a Critically Needed Position Related to the Matilija Dam Removal and Restoration Project; Certify the Nature of Mr. Brennan's Employment and Appointment in Accordance with Government Code Section 7522.56, Subdivision(f)(1)**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that your Board:

- Certify the nature of employment of Brian Brennan as a retired annuitant and find that his employment is necessary to fill a critically needed position before 180 days have passed since his retirement from the County of Ventura in accordance with Government Code section 7522.56 subdivision (f)(1); and
- Approve the appointment by Supervisor LaVere of Brain Brennan as a retired annuitant assisting the County and First District office, for up to 5 hours per week beginning October 17, 2022, through the end of the current fiscal year, providing crucial project knowledge and State, Federal and local private sector stakeholder relationships which are needed during this critical stage of the Matilija Dam Removal and Restoration Project, pursuant to Government Code section 7522.56, subdivision (f) (1)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	Existing Fiscal Year First District Office Budget
Funding Match Required:	No
Impact on Other Departments:	

Summary of Revenues and Costs

FY 2022-23

Revenue:		\$	0
Costs:	Direct	\$	11,735
	Indirect – Agency/Dept	\$	0
	Indirect = CAP	\$	0
	<u>Total Costs</u>	\$	<u>11,735</u>

DISCUSSION:

The removal of the Matilija Dam above Ojai has been a high priority for the County, local stakeholders and environmental groups for several decades. Its removal is expected to result in the restoration of important native habituate, restoration of our local beaches, as well as providing additional groundwater recharge which can be captured for local use. As the dam is located in the First District, the project has historically been a particular priority for my office as well as that of my predecessor. While only measured progress on this project has been possible over the past several years due to funding constraints, the recent availability of significant federal and state funds has moved the project into high gear, with the genuine opportunity to move the project forward in a substantial way.

In a recent visit to Sacramento to speak before the Wildlife Conservation Board in support of grant funding for a Matilija-related project, myself, Mr. Brennan and County Staff were made acutely aware of the availability of substantially more funding being available for dam removal. If we can stay on track in relation to project timelines, we have the opportunity to garner that important funding and move this project towards completion.

Mr. Brennan, who is formally retiring on October 15th 2022, has been an integral part of this advocacy effort, along with the exceptional staff of Public Works and the Watershed Protection District leading our comprehensive efforts on this project.

This Board is aware of the role each one of our Board offices can play in the success of such major projects, especially in engaging our state and federal elected officials along with officials in the regulatory agencies to gain support for projects of this scale.

Mr. Brennan brings a wealth of environmental advocacy, background knowledge, experience and credibility to this project based on his extensive experience in the environmental community and his over 12 years of work in the District 1 office. Some of those bodies on which he has served includes the California Coastal Commission, BEACON, the Ventura County Surfrider Foundation, and the Board of the Casitas Municipal Water District. In fact, Brian has been associated with this dam removal and restoration project for well over 25 years.

Pursuant to Government Code section 7522.56, County retirees are required to have a separation from service ("sit out period") of 180 days between retiring and returning to work

for the County, at which time they may work no more than 960 hours per fiscal year. However, Government Code section 7522.56, subdivision (f)(1), allows a retiree to be employed before 180 days have passed if the County certifies the nature of the employment and that "the employment is necessary to fill a critically needed position." Further, under section 7522.56(t)(1), the appointment must be approved by the governing body at a public meeting as part of the regular meeting agenda. Given Mr. Brennan's extensive and unique experience and background, and the crucial timing and opportunities on this project currently before us, I believe it is critical that we retain Brian to assist the County and my office on this project for a period of time and I am grateful for his willingness to do so.

I am, therefore, requesting my colleagues on the Board to approve the subject recommendations in this letter allowing Brian to serve for up to 5 hours per week upon his retirement.

The funds for Mr. Brennan's employment in the amount of \$11,735 are available within my existing year's office budget. As an extra help employee Mr. Brennan will be paid at the rate of his current hourly base rate and will not receive any additional benefits or incentives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt LaVere', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt LaVere, Chair
Supervisor, First District