



<b>Current FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for for Watershed Protection District Zone 2 – Unit 4222</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings
Appropriations	\$1,012,700	\$3,184,156	\$3,184,156	\$0
Revenue	\$1,029,100	\$1,173,850	\$1,173,850	\$0
Net Cost	\$ (16,400)	\$2,010,306	\$2,010,306	\$0

Sufficient revenue and appropriations are included in the FY 2022-23 Adjusted Budget.

**Executive Summary:**

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) is requesting approval to execute Modification No. 2 with the consulting firm Craftwater Engineering, Inc. to develop a Countywide Watershed Management Program (WMP) for an increased amount of \$310,312, for a total contract amount of \$1,563,907 which includes extra services. The District is acting on behalf of the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program (Program), a cooperative effort of Ventura County Watershed Protection District, the County of Ventura, and the ten cities of Ventura County (Permittees). These combined agencies are contributing 50 percent of the total cost for this contract.

WMPs are voluntary compliance programs under the 2021 Stormwater Permit. Your Board approved the Notice of Intent to develop a countywide WMP on December 7, 2021. A WMP allows Permittees to identify the measures and schedules they will implement to comply with applicable water quality limits in each watershed: Ventura River, Santa Clara River, Calleguas Creek, Upper Malibu Creek, and miscellaneous Coastal watersheds. The WMP with its watershed-specific plans are due September 11, 2023. In April 2022 and under this contract AE22-037, a project startup task was executed with Craftwater Engineering for a not-to-exceed amount of \$34,953. It was executed to quickly initiate the intensive data collection efforts required and begin early engagement with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). On May 10, 2022, your Board approved Modification No. 1, in the additional amount of \$1,218,642, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,253,595 to fully develop the WMP for all Ventura County watersheds. Modification No. 2 is required to increase the amount of the contract by \$310,312 to perform a revised Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) modeling effort, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,563,907.

**Background:**

On July 23, 2021, LARWQCB adopted a new permit (Permit) for municipal stormwater dischargers in Ventura County; the Permit became effective on September 11, 2021. Unlike previous versions of the Permit, the new stormwater Permit allows Permittees two options to comply with the new permit’s water quality limits and requirements.

Traditional compliance requires the implementation of specific non-structural actions (e.g., business inspections and street sweeping) outlined in the Permit and strict compliance with the numeric Receiving Water Limitations (RWLs) and the numeric Water



Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs). Compliance with numeric limits becomes immediately required. Through the traditional compliance pathway, no additional time is provided to Permittees to meet RWLs or interim Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) WQBELs. Penalties for exceeding TMDL, WQBELs, and RWLs can be as much as \$25,000 per day plus up to \$25 per gallon.

Alternative compliance requires Permittees to voluntarily develop and adopt a WMP and allows Permittees to address its highest watershed priorities. Developing, implementing, and meeting the milestones included in WMPs is considered compliance and protects from enforcement penalties in all cases except for final TMDL WQBELs. The goal of a WMP and the associated modeling is to forecast the future water quality after the most cost-effective structural and non-structural best management practices have been installed or implemented.

**Discussion:**

The District released a Request for Qualifications on December 22, 2021, including a detailed scope of work for developing a Countywide WMP. The selection committee, consisting of representatives from the District, County of Ventura, and the cities of Oxnard, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, and Moorpark identified Craftwater Engineering, Inc., as having the best approach for developing the WMP to meet the current and future needs of the Permittees. A key factor in the selection of Craftwater Engineering was their proposed usage of visual RAA modeling tools previously used in areas similar to Ventura County's landscape and unlike the densely urbanized areas of Los Angeles. No calibrated, countywide model currently exists for Ventura County. This model includes web-based functionality to streamline WMP transparency, execution, and tracking by enabling permittees to customize and adapt their own plan continuously over time (instead of relying on future consultants to intermittently re-run the RAA in the future). This selection of Craftwater Engineering was unanimously approved by the Program's Management Committee on March 17, 2022.

To quickly initiate the intensive data collection efforts required of Permittees and begin early engagement with the LARWQCB, a project startup task under contract AE22-037 was executed with Craftwater Engineering on April 19, 2022, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$34,953. Approved by your Board on May 10, 2022, Modification No. 1 increased the amount of the contract by \$1,218,642, for a total contract cost to develop the WMP for all Ventura County watersheds of \$1,253,595, including potential extra services. Modification No. 2 is required to increase the amount of the contract by \$310,312 for the revised modeling efforts with a new total contract cost of \$1,563,907. These costs are shared according to the current cost sharing formula in the Stormwater Implementation Agreement between the Permittees in Ventura County.

From the onset of WMP development, the District committed to a policy of collaboration and transparency with frequent engagement with LARWQCB staff to work towards a mutually acceptable WMP. During a series of meetings in Summer 2022, the District informed LARWQCB staff that no calibrated, countywide model currently exists and introduced the model intended to be used within Ventura County. Without further



discussions, LARWQCB staff issued a letter notifying the District that the proposed model would not be acceptable for use due to a Permit requirement that models used for RAA need to be in the public domain.

To stay on schedule, in addition to the initial model, the RAA modeling will be revised to include a *Hydrological Simulation Program – FORTRAN* (HSPF) watershed model to determine the baseline pollutant loading and associated required reductions to meet established water quality objectives, and the structural control measures model, *System for Urban Stormwater Treatment and Analysis Integration* (SUSTAIN), to calculate pollutant load reductions from proposed control measures. These models are both in the public domain and accepted for RAA modeling use by the LARWQCB in the Los Angeles region. A substantial and intensive effort is required to ensure that appropriate model setup and calibration, development of a structural control measure model, and RAA model validation occurs without project delays. Data and information gathered already for the initial model inputs will be used in development of the HSPF and SUSTAIN models. The District will continue to configure the initial modeling system because of its valuable future use as an implementation tool to guide project planning and program tracking.

A Draft WMP must be submitted to LARWQCB by September 11, 2023. A final WMP must be submitted to LARWQCB within three months after receiving comments on the Draft WMP. Delivery of this final draft is included within this contract. The District will receive a contribution from the Permittees of 50 percent of the cost of this consulting contract as part of the adopted Countywide Stormwater Implementation Agreement.

Transmitted herewith is the consulting services contract Modification No. 2 that has been negotiated with Craftwater Engineering, Inc., of San Diego, CA, in accordance with the policy adopted by your Board on November 3, 1998. The contract completion date remains unchanged on December 31, 2024. Exhibit 1 describes all services to be provided under this modification. Total payment, including extra services in the amount of \$110,786, shall not exceed \$1,563,907, without additional modification.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and the County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact the undersigned at 654-2040.

Sincerely,



Glenn Shephard, P.E.  
Director

Attachment:

Exhibit No. 1 – Modification #2 - AE22-037 Contract

