

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date **Held Until**

Agenda Item No: **Agenda Item No:**

Department:
 Sonoma County Water Agency

() 4/5 Vote Required

Contact:
 Lisa Renton

Phone:
 (707) 521-6206

Board Date:
 06-09-09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:
 Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's Russian River Watershed Program Funding 2009/2010

- REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):**
1. Authorize Chair to execute the Agreement for Funding of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District Russian River Watershed Program 2009/2010 between the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (\$30,000 for year 1 and \$20,000 for year 2, for a 2-year agreement for a total of \$50,000).
 2. Authorize Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to amend the agreement provided amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Agency by more than \$25,000 (taking into account all prior amendments) and do not substantially change the scope of work.
 3. Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustments to the 2008/2009 Final Budget for the Agency's Russian River Projects Fund in the amount of \$30,000.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ 30,000	Contingencies	\$
Amount Budgeted	\$	(Fund Name:)	
Other Avail Approp	\$	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
(Explain below)		(Source:)	
Additional Requested:	\$ 30,000	Other Transfer(s)	\$ 30,000
		(Source: Fund Balance)	
		Add'l Funds Requested:	\$ 30,000

Explanation (if required): Additional appropriation in 674515-6570 is required to process this expense; fund balance will be appropriated with Board approval. Funding for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 is contingent upon availability of funds in the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 budget for the Russian River Project Fund.

- Prior Board Action(s):**
- 04/10/07 Approval and authorization for the Chair to execute the Agreement for Funding of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's Russian River Watershed Program.
 - 09/21/04 Approval and authorization for the Chair to execute the Agreement for Funding of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's Russian River Watershed Program.
 - 01/15/02 Approval and authorization for the Chair to execute the Agreement for Funding of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's Russian River Watershed Program.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Background: Agreement on file with the Clerk.

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District's (Gold Ridge RCD) Russian River Watershed Program

The Gold Ridge RCD Russian River Watershed Program (Program) provides landowner assistance, public outreach and education, watershed stewardship, watershed monitoring, interagency coordination, resource enhancement, and planning and implementation to assist local groups in improving land management and restoring fish habitat. The intent of the Program is to create a long-term system of organization, training, communication, and improvements in the health of the watershed and enhanced and restored habitat for threatened fish species.

Previous Agreements

In 2001 the Board of Directors (Board) approved and authorized the Chair to execute an agreement between the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) and Gold Ridge RCD for funding of the Program. The intent of the agreement was to allow the Agency to assist the Gold Ridge RCD by providing partial funding for the Gold Ridge RCD's efforts to improve watershed health to the benefit of anadromous fish species. The original agreement was amended to extend the term of the agreement to December 31, 2003. The Agency and Gold Ridge RCD renewed this agreement through calendar years 2007 and 2008.

Summary of Accomplishments under 2007/2008 Agreement

Completion of the tasks under the 2007/2008 agreement has allowed the Gold Ridge RCD to: educate and train landowners and sub-watershed groups in water quality monitoring protocols and the implementation of restoration techniques to reduce sediment delivery to creeks through educational and hands-on workshops, develop and disseminate the "Stewards of the Land" educational bulletin to 1,200 landowners in the lower Russian River Watershed, and participate in the Coho Salmon Recovery Workgroup to develop an action plan and identify priority projects for the recovery of salmonid habitat within the Gold Ridge RCD's boundaries. In addition, the agreement has allowed the Gold Ridge RCD to develop geographic information system capabilities to track sediment sources, erosion control projects, and other restoration activities; prepare a feasibility analysis of coordinating permitting for the Russian River; and assess and develop recommendations and priority sites along Green Valley Creek to control fill failures, stream crossing erosion, washouts, and stream diversions so that they do not degrade the stream system. Finally, this agreement has allowed the Gold Ridge RCD to develop a feasibility analysis of on-farm needs assessment designed to reduce nutrient loading and enhance fisheries in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed. Through their partnership with the Agency, the Gold Ridge RCD has been able to utilize Agency funding as a local match for grants from the California Department of Fish and Game to leverage and bring additional funding and restoration benefits to the Russian River Watershed.

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Attachments: Resolution (R1)

On File With Clerk: Agreement (4 Copies)

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

Components of the Proposed Agreement

The proposed agreement provides funding for Gold Ridge RCD to continue these activities through the following tasks:

- Provide training programs and technical assistance to support the Coho Recovery Strategy and Russian River Biological Opinion including the development of individual and community-oriented water conservation and sediment reduction strategies and their resulting benefits to salmonid habitat and other endangered species recovery plans.
- Prepare and disseminate on-line and paper educational bulletins for landowners and interested stakeholders.
- Participate in the Russian River Coho Water Resources Partnership and work with participants and interested landowners to develop a systematic approach to improve stream flow and water supply reliability in the five Russian River tributaries critical to the recovery of Coho.
- Develop Phase II of the Coordinated Permitting Program for the Russian River.
- Implement a priority restoration project in the Green Valley Creek Watershed that will stabilize and improve the stream bank and upslope areas while increasing habitat for salmon and native vegetation.

The details of funding amounts and deliverable products expected under these specific tasks are listed in the proposed agreement.

The total cost of this two-year agreement is \$50,000. The Agency's 2008/2009 budget will be increased by \$30,000 for this agreement with this Board action approval. Funding for the potential remaining \$20,000 needed to complete the agreement will be requested in the fiscal year 2009/2010 budget. The agreement expressly provides that if funding for this agreement for any fiscal year is reduced or eliminated by the Agency's Board of Directors, the Agency shall have the option to terminate this agreement.

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