

<b>COUNTY OF SONOMA AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY REPORT</b>			<b>Clerk of the Board Use Only</b>	
			<b>Meeting Date</b> _____	<b>Held Until</b> _____
			<b>Agenda Item No:</b> _____	<b>Agenda Item No:</b> _____
<b>Department:</b> Sonoma County Water Agency			( ) 4/5 Vote Required	
<b>Contact:</b> David Manning	<b>Phone:</b> 547-1988	<b>Board Date:</b> 06-09-09	<b>Deadline for Board Action:</b>	
<b>AGENDA SHORT TITLE:</b> Russian River Instream Flow and Restoration Project				
<b>REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):</b>				
1. Authorize General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Agreement for Estuary Invertebrate Research and Monitoring Services for Russian River Instream Flow and Restoration Project between the Sonoma County Water Agency and University of Washington (\$252,713) in substantially the form as the draft presented to this Board, following review and approval by County Counsel as to form.				
2. Authorize the 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.				
<b>CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>				
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			<b>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</b>	
<b>Estimated Cost</b>	\$	63,780		
<b>Amount Budgeted</b>	\$	63,780	<b>Unanticipated Revenue</b>	\$
			<b>(Source: )</b>	
<b>Other Avail Approp (Explain below)</b>	\$		<b>Other Transfer(s)</b>	\$
			<b>(Source: )</b>	
<b>Additional Requested:</b>	\$	-0-	<b>Add'l Funds Requested:</b>	\$
				-0-
<b>Explanation (if required):</b> Total Agreement cost is \$252,713 to be funded as follows: Funding is available from the \$60,000 appropriation in the FY 2008/2009 budget for the Fund entitled Russian River Projects (Account No. 674515); funding in FY 2009/2010 is available from the \$122,016 appropriation in the Fund entitled Watershed Restoration and Planning (Account No.675728); and the remaining \$66,917 is subject to Board approval of the Agency's FY 2010/2011 budget.				
<b>Prior Board Action(s):</b>				
12/16/08	Authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement for Habitat Restoration on Dry Creek Tributaries (Grape Creek, Crane Creek, and Mill Creek) between the Agency and Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (\$520,000) to comply with the Biological Opinion.			
08/16/97	Authorize the General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute a memorandum of understanding among the Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and National Marine Fisheries Service to initiate a Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation for the Russian River Project.			
<b>Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:</b>				
Execution of this agreement is required to comply with the terms of the Russian River Project Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.				

**Background:** Draft Agreement on file with the Clerk.

Selection Process

The University of Washington (University) was the only firm contacted and was selected to perform the work because its Wetlands Ecosystem Team in the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences has a great deal of experience in this type of work. The University's principal investigator, Prof. Charles Simenstad, and his team have studied juvenile Pacific salmon diet and ecology in estuaries of the Sacramento, Salmon, Skagit, and Columbia rivers. The University also provided a reasonable schedule that adheres to the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Agency) requirements in the Biological Opinion (BiOp).

History Of Item

On September 24, 2008, the Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers received a final BiOp from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the product of a Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation for the Russian River Project. The BiOp requires changes to Agency's Russian River estuary sandbar management and monitoring activities.

The Agency and the California Department of Fish and Game are negotiating a California Endangered Species Act Consistency Determination for endangered coho salmon that requires immediate mitigation for impacts to coho associated with estuary management.

To assist the Agency in conducting studies pursuant to the BiOp, the University will collaborate in conducting studies of the ecological response of the Russian River estuary to alternative management (sandbar breaching) actions associated with the opening and closure of the estuary mouth.

The results will directly comply with the Agency's estuary invertebrate monitoring requirements in the BiOp and provide: 1) an increased understanding of ecological responses to different estuarine rearing situations of juvenile salmon and steelhead listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, 2) information relating juvenile salmon prey resource composition and availability to estuary conditions, and 3) information input to an adaptive estuary management plan framework that may be required to resolve estuary management issues.

Termination

The Agreement includes provisions for the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to terminate the Agreement.

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**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Draft Agreement (One Copy)

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (if other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**