

**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:
 Mike Thompson

Phone:
 (707) 521-1863

Board Date:
 06-16-09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:
 1st Amended Agreement for Consulting Services for Sonoma County Youth Employment Program

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):
 Authorize Chair to execute the Agreement between the Sonoma County Water Agency and New Ways to Work, a California Non Profit Corporation for implementation of the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Program (\$166,300).

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 and do not substantially change the scope of work.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$ 166,300	Contingencies	\$
		(Fund Name:)	
Amount Budgeted	\$ 166,300	Unanticipated Revenue	\$
		(Source:)	
Other Avail Approp (Explain below)	\$	Other Transfer(s)	\$
		(Source:)	
Additional Requested:	\$ -0-	Add'l Funds Requested:	\$ -0-

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: The Agency could conduct the flood control maintenance and stream maintenance mitigation activities using its own staff, outside contractors, and/or other non-profit organizations without benefit to the youth of Sonoma County.

Background: Agreement on file with the Clerk.

President Obama's stimulus package, titled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal Stimulus Package), provides \$1.2 billion for youth and young adult workforce programs under the Workforce Investment Act. Funding will be provided through the State of California to Sonoma County and the Youth Council/Workforce Investment Board. Approximately \$1,200,000 in funding is available for summer work programs for Sonoma County youths and young adults.

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) retained New Ways to Work (NWW) under an initial agreement to assist the Agency and the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in developing a summer work program utilizing youth and young adults from existing programs. The program is referred to as the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (Youth Ecology Corps). One of the goals of this program is to leverage Agency flood protection resources with other State and Federal funding sources. Another goal is to support watershed management and ecology-based jobs for youth and young adults that are funded under the Federal Stimulus Package.

The Agency has identified numerous flood control and watershed management project sites within its Flood Control Zones (Zone 1A Laguna Mark West Creek, Zone 2A Petaluma, Zone 3A Valley of the Moon, and Zone 5A Lower Russian River). The Agency plans to utilize Youth Ecology Corps services in these areas to perform invasive species removal, stream restoration, and flood control maintenance activities. Under the Agency's Stream Maintenance Program, the Agency's mitigation for sediment removal projects will include funding stream mitigation projects at not less than 10% of the sediment removal costs. Much of the funding provided by the Agency for Youth Ecology Corps can be banked as mitigation credits with the California Department of Fish and Game, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board for its stream maintenance activities.

Through the Youth Ecology Corps effort, NWW has facilitated a design process that represents a unique partnership in the nation. The Youth Ecology Corps has developed ecology and conservation-related projects to be completed by approximately 25 crews of youth and young adults this summer with over 21 of the County's environmental organizations and County or City departments. The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) is contributing support to engage all Summer Jobs Program youth in its Work Ready Certification as well as its Career Interest Assessment system.

The Agency, Landpaths, and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District are working to develop a common curriculum to be applied across the program, and 5 of the County's youth service providers have been selected to deliver the program this summer in all 6 regions of the county.

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Attachments:

On File With Clerk: Amended Agreement (4 Copies)

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

Under the proposed agreement, NWW shall provide funding assistance to the WIB to supplement Federal funding for supervisors, program coordinators, crew members and transportation. NWW services will also include; (1) assisting implementing organizations and SCOE to ensure that youth in the program participate in the Sonoma County Work-Ready Certifications process; (2) providing training (coordinated with WIB) to all crew coordinators and crew leaders in the project goals and objectives, operations, key content areas, positive youth development and other topics as identified; (3) co-hosting regular meetings of the crew coordinators and WIB staff to manage the project, share successes, and troubleshoot issues as they arise; and (4) documenting the project through photographs, interviews and narratives designed to “tell the story” of the Youth Ecology Corps.

NWW will also ensure that 6 to 8 Youth Ecology Corps crews are conducting stream maintenance, restoration and invasive species removal activities that the Agency can use as mitigation for its routine maintenance activities. These crews will provide these services between June 29 and August 7, 2009, with the potential for additional crews from August 10 through September 15, 2009. These crews will be composed of 8 to 10 crew members each, including the crew supervisor. NWW will use Agency funding provided under this agreement to purchase and distribute tools as appropriate to support the project. At the conclusion of this summer’s activities, the Agency will store tools used for this program and use these materials for other Agency-assisted volunteer restoration events.

The proposed agreement includes provisions for Agency’s General Manager/Chief Engineer to terminate the agreement.

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