

**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: Jon Niehaus **Phone:** (707) 521-1845 **Board Date:** 06-23-09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:
 Arundo Removal Agreement

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION(S):

1. Authorize the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Contract between Sonoma County Water Agency and Sotoyome Resource Conservation District for Arundo Removal (\$46,800) in substantially the form as the draft presented to this Board, following review and approval by County Counsel as to form and by Risk Management as to insurance requirements.
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.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Background: Draft Agreement on file with the Clerk.

The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) exists to provide technical, financial, and educational support to landowners in rural and urban communities to help sustain agriculture, the economy and the environment. The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) and RCD desire to cooperate in efforts to remove an invasive species, *Arundo donax*, from the Russian River Watershed. The RCD needs additional staff for the summer season for hand removal of *Arundo* in the heavily infested Alexander Valley reach of the Russian River, and desires to hire Agency Maintenance Workers with miscellaneous Agency equipment June through October of 2009 under a contract not to exceed \$46,800.

Arundo donax is a non-native, bamboo-like grass that invades riparian areas and displaces native vegetation. The Russian River Watershed has an estimated 4,850 acres of riparian areas infested with *Arundo donax*. This non-native weed uses large quantities of water, crowds out native plants, destabilizes streambanks, contributes to poor water quality, and presents a significant fire hazard. Additionally, it offers little habitat for native plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species, who depend on a healthy riparian corridor for their survival.

The RCD's Russian River *Arundo donax* Removal Program has resulted in the control of *Arundo* in over 1,470 infested acres in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. This program leads removal and native vegetation efforts in riparian corridors to enhance biodiversity and riparian habitat adjacent to natural and agricultural lands.

Under the proposed Agreement, the RCD would pay the Agency up to \$46,800 to perform work for the RCD under the *Arundo donax* Removal Program. The Agency will charge the RCD the actual cost of Agency employees used to perform work under the Agreement. The Agency's work under the Agreement will further the Agency's goal of improving riparian habitat in the Russian River Watershed.

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Attachments:

On File With Clerk: Draft Agreement (1 copy)

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: