

# County of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
Meeting Date  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Human Services and Sonoma County Water Agency

**4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
Karen Fies  
Mike Thompson

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-8501  
(707) 521-1863

**Board Date:**  
August 11, 2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**  
August 11, 2009

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**  
Summer Jobs Program Report

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Informational report on the Summer Jobs Program.

Ratify and approve Agreements between Sonoma County Water Agency and Youth Service Provider organizations

## CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

**EXPENDITURES**

Estimated Cost	\$	00.00	Contingencies	\$	00.00
			(Fund Name: )		
Amount Budgeted	\$	00.00	Unanticipated Revenue	\$	00.00
			(Source: State of California )		
Other Available Approp.	\$	00.00	Other Transfer(s)	\$	00.00
(Explain Below)	\$		(Source: )		
Additional Requested:	\$	00.00	Total Source of Funds:	\$	00.00

**Explanation** (if required):

**Prior Board Action(s):**

July 21, 2009: Approved unanticipated revenue from ARRA and New Ways to Work

June 16, 2009: Approved Sonoma County Water Agency Agreement with New Ways to Work

June 2, 2009: Approved Sonoma County Human Services Department agreements with local service providers for the 2009 Summer Jobs Program

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:**

**Background**

The Summer Jobs Program was funded with \$1.2 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with the purpose of providing summer jobs for Workforce Investment Act eligible youth and young adults. These funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Labor, and are under the general administration of the State of California and, locally, by the Sonoma County Human Services Department, under the policy direction of the Sonoma County Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Education & Employment Services Council. Approximately 330 youth in Sonoma County will have earned subsidized wages for 6-8 weeks in the Summer Jobs Program.

The majority of the summer jobs projects have been provided under a unique partnership known locally as the Summer Youth Ecology Corps, in which conservation and ecology-related projects were organized by New Ways to Work (a community-based agency focusing on youth employment) in collaboration with the Sonoma County Water Agency and other agencies. These conservation and ecology-related projects are being completed by youth and young adults in the Summer Jobs Program work crews.

The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) has provided \$191,300 in match funding to the Summer Youth Ecology Corps through a contract with New Ways to Work. The SCWA also dedicated a number of staff to the effort, and has utilized the Summer Youth Ecology Corps to perform invasive species removal, stream restoration, and flood control maintenance activities. Under contract by the SCWA, New Ways purchased tools, provided wage subsidies for program coordinators, provided transportation support for Youth Ecology Corps crews, and provided training to all crew coordinators and leaders. They also are documenting the program, and are preparing a report and video on the Summer Youth Ecology Corps.

A total of 44 worksites with 26 project hosts have been developed to give Sonoma County youth the opportunity to learn a variety of skills. Examples of the agencies hosting youth workers include:

- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma County Regional Parks
- Cities of Cloverdale, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa and Town of Windsor
- Chanslor Wildlife, LLC
- Cotati Creek Critters & Laguna Foundation
- Friends of the Petaluma River
- LandPaths
- Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
- VOICES

**Attachments:**

**On File With Clerk:** Agreements between Sonoma County Water Agency and Youth Service Provider

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Vote:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Background (cont.)** Agreements between Sonoma County Water Agency and Youth Service Provider organizations are on file with the Clerk

Five non-profit agencies in six regions of Sonoma County received contracts totaling \$1,147,023 to supervise and be the employers of record for the youth:

- The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship (North County) – 42 youth
- Petaluma People Services Center (South County) – 42 youth
- Social Advocates for Youth (Santa Rosa) – 142 youth
- Social Advocates for Youth (Sonoma Valley) – 32 youth
- Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development (Cotati/RP) – 32 youth
- West County Community Services (West County) – 42 youth

Youth in the Summer Youth Ecology Corp crews were provided with boots, hats, t-shirts (2 each – so they could be washed), gloves, tools (provided by Friedman’s Home Improvement Center at a reduced cost), transportation, educational programs, good work skills, and a lifetime of memories.

Service providers also used individual work experience sites in public and private non-profit agencies as an option for youth who were unable to meet the physical demands of the crew work or for youth who had a targeted interest. For example, a clerical job was developed at a local non-profit to provide work experience for a participant who cannot perform physically-demanding labor, and a youth specifically interested in law enforcement has had the opportunity to work at the Petaluma Police Department.

The Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) has also contributed to the success of the Summer Jobs Program by engaging all Summer Jobs Program youth in its Work-Ready Certification. The goal has been to prepare as many youth as possible for future work through the progress and completion of SCOE’s Work-Ready Certificate. As an educational enhancement to the program, the Sonoma County Office of Education also provided free Kuder Career Planning System online accounts to all Summer Jobs Program participants. More than half of the participants attended orientations at SCOE where they set up a lifetime account, took one or more of the built-in career assessments, and learned how to use the system to research careers, postsecondary education and training options, and financial aid opportunities.

Prior to the start of the program, the Water Agency entered into revocable licenses with and obtained insurance documentation from all of the Youth Service Provider organizations (Petaluma People Services Center, Social Advocates for Youth- Santa Rosa, Social Advocates for Youth - Sonoma Valley, Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development, and West County Community Services. Due to timing of the program and the challenge of coordinating multiple organizations, there was not sufficient time to bring the Worksite agreements to the Board prior to commencement of the program. In order to allow participation in the program in a timely manner, the Worksite agreements were signed by the Deputy Chief Engineer, subject to later ratification and approval by the Board.

Requested Board Action:

Ratify and approve Agreements between Sonoma County Water Agency and Youth Service Provider Organizations.