

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

Held Until

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Agenda Item No:

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**Department:** Sonoma County Water Agency

**4/5 Vote Not Required**

**Contact:**

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**Board Date:**

8/25/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resource Investigation

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

1. Authorize the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Joint Funding Agreement for Water Resource Investigations – Influence of Climate Change on Hydrology of the Russian River Basin between the Sonoma County Water Agency and U.S Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior (\$471,250).
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.
3. Authorize the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to terminate the Agreement, if appropriate.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES:**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:**

<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$322,100</b>	<b>Contingencies</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>(Fund Name:)</b>	
<b>Amount Budgeted</b>	<b>\$322,100</b>	<b>Unanticipated Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>(Source:)</b>	
<b>Other Available Appropriations</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Other Transfers</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>(Explain Below)</b>		<b>(Source:)</b>	
<b>Additional Requested</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>Additional Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Explanation (if required):**

Funding is available from the FY09/10 budget as follows:

Watershed Planning/ Restoration (675728 6570): \$171,875

Water Management Planning (675710 6570): \$69,925

Warm Springs Dam (673806 6570): \$80,300

Remainder of project cost (\$42,050) shall be budgeted for in FY 10/11 from the Watershed Planning/Restoration Fund (675728 6570).

**Prior Board Action:**

6/10/08 Authorizing General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute agreements for environmental services for Russian River Flow EIR/EIS and for support of the Russian River Flow Project Stakeholder Assessment.

5/15/07 Directing the General Manager/Chief Engineer to initiate process asking SWRCB to amend Decision 1610, including initiating a facilitated stakeholder group process and returning to the Board with a scope of work for a facilitator and developing scopes of work for a facilitator and developing scopes of work for feasibility studies for Decision 1610 amendment alternatives.

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

None.

## **Background:**

### HISTORY

The Russian River Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the fall of 2008 mandated changes to be pursued by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) to Decision 1610 flow requirements to protect coho salmon and steelhead trout. The need for changes to Decision 1610 has been highlighted by the low Lake Mendocino storage levels in 2002, 2004, and 2007-2009. The Agency is interested in understanding potential future hydrologic conditions in the Russian River Watershed to aid in the development of modified flow requirements as required in the BO and assess the potential water supply impacts.

Potential changes in air temperatures and precipitation due to climate change are likely to result in changes in hydrology in the Russian River Watershed, which drains into the Agency's Russian River Water System. Consequently, the Agency needs the most accurate information reflecting potential future hydrologic conditions as a result of climate change for multiple reasons: (1) for assessing water supply impacts with the Agency's water supply planning models; (2) to provide input to the revision of Decision 1610; and (3) to optimize the balance of future water needs among instream flows and competing water use needs, including groundwater.

The expertise and resources required for this study are not available within the Agency. For this reason the Agency requires the services of an outside consultant.

Under the proposed agreement with U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS), USGS will study the potential hydrologic and climactic changes in the Russian River Watershed due to climate change. The objectives of this study are to (1) downscale results of existing climate change models to the Russian River Watershed; (2) develop future hydrologic and climactic input files of different climate change scenarios for use with the Agency's water supply planning model; (3) and prepare future climate inputs for ground-water models in Sonoma County, Santa Rosa Plain, and Healdsburg. Results of the study will provide the Agency with needed data to evaluate the local impacts of climate change and plan for those impacts.

Funding of this work will be shared jointly between the Agency and USGS. Agency's share of the funding is \$364,150, and USGS's share is \$107,100, for a total of \$471,250.

USGS is currently studying climate change impacts for many regions in the Western United States. The work to be conducted in the proposed study will build upon efforts already completed by USGS for this region. The nature of the work associated with completing the proposed study is very unique. There are very few organizations that are qualified in this field. The Agency had discussions and meetings with another organization for this project, although the Agency ultimately chose USGS to conduct the proposed study, due to USGS' excellent credentials in the field of climate change modeling, its previous work in the region, and its close association with other related projects.

### **INSURANCE**

The agreement is in USGS' standard form, which does not include insurance provisions. Risk Management has approved the waiver of customary insurance requirements.

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**Attachments:** None.

**On File With Clerk:** 1) Agreement (1 Copy); 2) USGS proposal "Influence of Climate Change on the Hydrology of the Russian River Basin" (one copy for reference).

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

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

**Vote:**