

County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

Held Until

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Agenda Item No:

Agenda Item No:

Department: Sonoma County Water Agency

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:

Jessica Martini-Lamb

Phone:

(707) 547-1903

Board Date:

9/1/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution authorizing the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Agreement for Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009 between the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Conservation Council (\$8,000), 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, and authorizing the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute future agreements for the Russian River Watershed Cleanup and agreements and payments for sponsorship of similar Russian River Watershed cleanup events up to \$10,000, so long as certain conditions are met.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES:

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Estimated Cost

\$8,000

Contingencies
(Fund Name:)

\$0

Amount Budgeted

\$8,000

Unanticipated Revenue
(Source:)

\$0

Other Available Appropriations
(Explain Below)

\$0

Other Transfers
(Source:)

\$0

Additional Requested

\$0

Additional Funds Requested

\$0

Explanation (if required): None.

Prior Board Action: None.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: The Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009 and the environmental benefits associated with the cleanup would be in jeopardy due to lack of funding and the Agency would not realize savings in administrative time and costs associated with funding of similar activities.

Background:

The Russian River Watershed Cleanup (Cleanup) is a non-profit event organized by the Russian River Watershed Cleanup Committee under the Sonoma County Conservation Council. The primary objective of the Cleanup is to improve the aquatic habitat and water quality of the Russian River. The Cleanup is a volunteer effort to remove trash from approximately 60 miles of the Russian River from Cloverdale downstream to Guerneville and some tributaries. Volunteers of all ages scour the river by boat and on foot in search of plastic bottles, barrels, tires, appliances, and other refuse. Refuse is carried to a central point on the shoreline for recycling or proper disposal at a landfill. In 2008, Cleanup volunteers gathered: 104 tires; 5 televisions/computer monitors; 1 microwave; 1 air conditioner; 1 4-yard box of assorted glass and plastic bottles for recycling; 2 30-yard boxes of sorted trash, including household items like mattresses and furniture; 11 auto batteries; and 3 1-gallon containers of motor oil. The Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009 is scheduled for September 26 and 27, 2009. These efforts help to minimize pollution and obstructions to fish passage, while improving river health and aesthetics and encouraging community participation in fish habitat improvement and prevention of future illegal dumping.

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) has previously sponsored the Cleanup through the Fisheries Enhancement Plan. In previous years, the Cleanup has also received sponsorship from other organizations, but this funding has become scarcer and the Agency’s assistance is now even more crucial to the success of this effort. The Cleanup is an opportunity for the Agency to further its efforts to improve water quality and habitat for listed salmonids on the Russian River; therefore, the Agency is seeking authorization for the General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Agreement for Funding of the Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009.

The Agency’s Board of Directors has delegated authority to the General Manager/Chief Engineer of the Agency to execute specific types of licenses, agreements and contracts. This authority significantly reduces the administrative time and cost of managing the Agency's work. Currently, Board authorization is required for any agreement or funding of watershed cleanup events.

In order to take advantage of the opportunities provided by such events and increase operating efficiency, the Agency is also seeking authorization for the General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute future agreements for the Russian River Watershed Cleanup and funding and sponsorship agreements for similar Russian River watershed cleanup events so long as the following conditions are met:

1. funding for the project is available from Sonoma County Water Agency's accounts;
2. the agreements do not exceed \$10,000 for any event;
3. the agreements are in a form approved by County Counsel;
4. the General Manager/Chief Engineer determines that actions are necessary to the Agency’s mission and responsibilities.

Requested Board Action:

Resolution authorizing the Agency’s General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Agreement for Russian River Watershed Cleanup 2009 between the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Conservation Council (\$8,000), 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, and authorizing the Agency’s General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute future agreements for the Russian River Watershed Cleanup and agreements and payments for sponsorship of similar Russian River Watershed cleanup events up to \$10,000, so long as certain conditions are met.

Attachments: Resolution (R1).

On File With Clerk: Draft Agreement (1 Copy).

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Board Action (If other than “Requested”)	Vote: