

<h1>County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report</h1>			Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date Held Until / / / /	
			Agenda Item No: _____	Agenda Item No: _____
Department: Transportation and Public Works			<input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Not Required	
Contact: Tom O'Kane	Phone: (707) 565-2231	Board Date: 9/15/2009	Deadline for Board Action:	
AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Fish Passage Design Service Agreement Modification – Wallace Creek				
REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: Request the Board of Supervisors approve a modification to the Fish Passage Design Contract to include Wallace Creek in place of Press Creek.				
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT - None.				
Explanation (if required): None.				
Prior Board Action: 6/23/09: BOS authorized the staff to advertise for design services to satisfy the Fish Passage grant requirements specified by US Fish and Wildlife Service and administered by the California Department of Fish and Game in the amount of \$159,000. 3/17/09: BOS approved a cooperative agreement with SCTA for partial funding for the construction of a fish passage project on Purrington Creek. 8/22/06: BOS accepted a Fisheries Restoration Grant in the amount of \$192,524 for the design of eight fish passage design projects.				
Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: The Wallace Creek fish passage design and implementation will be postponed to some future date.				

Background: In 2004, the County received grant funding from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to create designs to retrofit eight stream crossings to accommodate fish passage. The stream crossings included in the grant contract are considered high priority for recovery of Coho salmon, which is listed as endangered under both the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts. Originally, it was intended that County staff would perform the design work on these culverts. However, only one design was completed before budget cuts and other internal issues diverted staff time to other projects, and it was determined that the remaining seven designs would have to be contracted out.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued by the County in May 2009, seeking design services for five of the remaining stream crossings that were included in the grant contract. One stream crossing that was included in the DFG grant contract, a box culvert on Wallace Creek at Mill Creek Road, was excluded from the RFP as surveys of the site had not been completed. Contractors were selected in June, but due to the extreme budget crisis at the state level, the contracts have not yet been awarded. While there is still some concern with the status of these grant funds, the state Fish and Game staff has assured the County that these Federal funds are not affected by the current revenue freeze imposed by the Governor.

Subsequently, the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) was contacted by SCWA staff regarding the design for Wallace Creek. The construction of this project was included as a requirement for mitigation in the Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA Fisheries for SCWA operations in the Russian River and must be completed by 2011. Therefore, it is imperative to SCWA that this project be included in the current round of designs to be completed by contractors before the grant contract with DFG expires in October 2009. Wallace Creek is considered a high priority by NOAA for Coho recovery, and SCWA has funds for construction through the Russian River BO. In addition, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) has agreed to guarantee the funding for the design of the Wallace Creek project, and will pay for the construction of the Wallace Creek project. Also, SCWA has initiated the survey that will be provided to the design contractor.

Given the short amount of time left before the DFG contract expires on October 31, 2009, the seven crossings remaining to be designed will be prioritized by DTPW, with Wallace Creek being the highest priority for completion. Designs for the remaining six sites will be completed as time allows with the intent of completing as many as possible. Including the design of Wallace Creek will have no fiscal impact on the County.

(continued on next page)

Attachments: Location Map

On File With Clerk: None.

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background (continued):

At this time, it is anticipated that only the Wallace Creek and Grape/Wine Creek designs will be implemented because SCWA has an obligation to complete projects listed in the BO. No other funding for construction is available at this time; however, in the future as grants become available, these fish passage projects will be ready for implementation.

Recommendation:

Request the Board of Supervisors approve a modification to the Fish Passage Design Contract to include Wallace Creek in place of Press Creek.