

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, County of Sonoma, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

4/5 Vote Not Required

Contact:

Marcus Trotta

Pete Parkinson

Bill Keene

Phone:

(707) 547-1978

(707) 565-2563

(707) 565-7348

Board Date:

9/15/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Funding, Years 4-6

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

SEE SUPPLEMENTAL PAGE

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES:

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Estimated Cost

\$110,000

Contingencies

\$0

(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted

\$110,000

Unanticipated Revenue

\$0

(Source:)

Other Available Appropriations
(Explain Below)

\$0

Other Transfers

\$0

(Source:)

Additional Requested

\$0

Additional Funds Requested

\$0

Explanation (if required):

The local cost share of \$110,000 is allocated as follows: Agency - \$30,000, County of Sonoma - \$10,000, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District - \$20,000, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District - \$20,000, City of Sonoma - \$15,000, and Valley of the Moon Water District - \$15,000. Multiple year agreement of which the current years' planned expenses are budgeted in 675736-6570. Subsequent budgets will include this Agreement expense.

Prior Board Action:

11-06-07 Board Approval of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and Direction to Implement Plan.

06-20-06 Board Workshop on Groundwater Management whereby Board directed staff to begin non-regulatory groundwater management planning process in Sonoma Valley.

11-01-04 Board Workshop on Water Supply and Reliability whereby Board directed staff to develop a work plan for a non-regulatory groundwater management plan in Sonoma Valley.

08-07-01 Board Action to initiate Sonoma County Water Agency/United States Geological Survey Cooperative Study of Groundwater Basins in Sonoma County.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: None.

Background:

This agenda item requests approval by the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) and County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors for the General Manager/Chief Engineer to enter into: (1) a cooperative funding agreement between the Agency, County of Sonoma (County), Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (SVCS), Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (Open Space District), City of Sonoma (City), and the Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) to assist in funding consultant services for the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program (Sonoma Valley GMP); and (2) the first amended agreement with Parker Groundwater – Technology, Innovation, and Management, Inc. to provide technical support for implementing the Sonoma Valley GMP.

Summary of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Activities

Implementation of the Sonoma Valley GMP began in early 2008. The 2008 Annual Report, which was developed with the participation, review, and approval of members of the Basin Advisory Panel (BAP), describes the progress achieved during the first year of implementation of the Sonoma Valley GMP. Some of the major accomplishments achieved in 2008 include:

1. Approximately \$250,000 in grant funding was awarded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for constructing two multi-depth groundwater monitoring wells and mapping groundwater recharge areas in Sonoma Valley;
2. Obtaining \$25,000 in grant funding from the North Bay Watershed Association to extend water conservation assessments to areas outside of existing conservation programs, including vineyard irrigation assessments;
3. Nearly doubling the number of groundwater level measurements collected in Sonoma Valley by adding over 40 new volunteers to the Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program; and
4. Constructing a new stream gage in Sonoma Creek near Kenwood to improve the understanding of surface water-groundwater interactions in Sonoma Valley.

Primary findings from the 2008 Annual Report include:

1. Annual rainfall and annual discharge of Sonoma Creek was approximately 75% of average;
2. Of the 57 wells for which at least 5 years of groundwater data is available, approximately 30 appear to exhibit relatively stable groundwater level trends, 21 exhibit declining trends, and 6 show upward trends; and
3. Two previously identified groundwater pumping depressions remain evident – southeast of the City of Sonoma and southwest of El Verano. Groundwater levels are locally below sea level in these areas.

Proposed Groundwater Management Planning Actions

Planned actions developed by the BAP for implementing the Sonoma Valley GMP in 2009 are also described in the 2008 Annual Report and include:

1. Further expanding the Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program;
2. Identify and plan projects that capture or retain available stormwater from Sonoma Creek and its tributaries for recharge into the groundwater basin;
3. Explore the feasibility of banking excess winter flows from the Russian River in the Sonoma Valley groundwater basin for storage and use in the summer/fall; and
4. Develop a guidebook for implementing small-scale recharge, conservation and reuse projects for landowners.

To move forward on performing these planned actions for the Sonoma Valley GMP, staff proposes (1) entering into a cooperative funding agreement between six local parties to fund the management process and (2) entering into a consultant agreement to support the program's implementation.

Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support Information for Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program for Years Four Through Six

The initial three-year Cooperative Funding Agreement between the Agency, County, SVCS, VOMWD, and the City, executed in June of 2006, covered the initial development of the groundwater management plan and first year and a half of program implementation (extending through June 2009). The initial three-year agreement recognized that a subsequent agreement or amendment would likely be necessary to fund ongoing implementation of the program beyond Year 3. Consequently, the Agency has developed a Cooperative Funding Agreement (on file with the Clerk) with the County, SVCS, Open Space District, VOMWD, and City to assist in funding the technical consultant activities for implementing the groundwater management program for Years 4 through 6 of the Program (i.e., Fiscal Years 09/10 through 11/12).

For the current Fiscal Year 09/10 the Cooperative Funding Agreement provides a total of \$110,000 for technical consultant services including: (1) assistance in program implementation and stakeholder coordination, (2) data management services, (3) planning and implementation of technical studies developed by the BAP, (4) pursuing grant funding opportunities, and (5) public outreach. For the Cooperative Funding Agreement, it has been assumed that costs for Years 5 and 6 of the program would be \$100,000 per year. The cost breakdown for funding purposes for the full three years covered by the Agreement is as follows: Agency - \$75,000, County - \$30,000, SVCS - \$45,000, Open Space - \$60,000, VOMWD - \$50,000, and City - \$50,000.

After Year 6, funding needs for the program will be reassessed, and the Agency and parties to the Cooperative Funding Agreement can amend the agreement to provide additional funding as needed to continue implementation of the program.

Amended Agreement for Implementation of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program.

Under the proposed Agreement, Parker Groundwater – Technology, Innovation, and Management, Inc. (Parker Groundwater) will continue to provide key services to the program, including:

1. Assisting the Agency, BAP, and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to continue the implementation of the plan.
2. Assisting with stakeholder advisory and TAC meetings to discuss program details and plans.
3. Providing assistance in developing materials for briefings of elected officials and public outreach.
4. Providing assistance in coordinating additional planning and implementation of the Volunteer Groundwater-Level Monitoring Program and ongoing data management.
5. Providing technical assistance in preparing grant fund applications to obtain funds to implement projects included in the plan.
6. Conducting technical analysis of groundwater level, groundwater quality data, and other pertinent information.
7. Providing assistance in preparing the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Annual Report.
8. Providing technical input and assist with coordination of technical studies recommended by the BAP.

The Amended Agreement with Parker Groundwater is for one year of services. The total cost of the agreement is \$90,060 for provision of the above-described services, which would be funded through the above-described Cooperative Funding Agreement, which provides a total of \$110,000 of funding for technical consultant services for Fiscal Year 09/10.

Parker Groundwater was the only firm contacted to provide the services for this Agreement. Parker Groundwater has the skill and expertise in the subject work area because groundwater management planning is their specialty. Timothy Parker (owner and sole employee of Parker Groundwater) has been the primary technical consultant for the Sonoma Valley GMP, beginning with his employment with Schlumberger Water Services in 2005, and has developed positive relationships with the stakeholders and BAP members of the Sonoma Valley GMP. Based on the exemplary work completed to date, staff recommends continuing to use Mr. Parker to implement the program. Mr. Parker is a former Department of Water Resources Manager who has extensive experience developing groundwater management plans throughout the state and has intimate knowledge of state regulations and policies regarding the groundwater management planning process. He is very familiar with state funding opportunities in association with groundwater management plans and has already been instrumental in the Agency receiving over \$175,000 in funding from the Department of Water Resources for facilitation of the Sonoma Valley GMP. Mr. Parker is an author of the definitive resource on statewide groundwater management planning titled California Groundwater Management, a Resource for Future Generations.

TERMINATION

The Agreement includes provisions for the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to terminate the Agreement.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTIONS:

SEE SUPPLEMENTAL PAGE

Attachments: None.

On File With Clerk: Agreements (4 copies each)

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Requested Board Action Supplemental Page

1. Concurrent Action Authorizing the Chair of the Sonoma County Water Agency Board of Directors, the Chair of the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District Board of Directors, and Chair of the County of Sonoma Board of Supervisors to execute the Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support Information for Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program for Years Four through Six between the Sonoma County Water Agency, County of Sonoma, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Valley of the Moon Water District, and City of Sonoma 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 acting on behalf of the Agency and the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District to amend the Cooperative Agreement provided amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Agency and/or District by more than \$25,000 (taking into account all prior amendments) and do not substantially change the scope of work.
3. Authorize the Chair of the Agency's Board of Directors to execute the First Amended Agreement for Implementation of Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program between the Sonoma County Water Agency and Parker Groundwater – Technology, Innovation, Management, Inc. (\$90,060).
4. Authorize the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to amend the Parker Groundwater – Technology, Innovation, Management, Inc. agreement provided amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Agency by more than \$25,000 and do not substantially change the scope of work.