

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



4/5 Vote Required

Contact:

Douglas Messenger

Phone:

(707) 547-1952

Board Date:

9/29/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Temporary Funding for the Sonoma Ecology Center Watershed Projects

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

1. Authorize Chair to execute the Agreement for Temporary Funding for Nathanson Creek Restoration Project and Stewardship Project between the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma Ecology Center (\$110,000).
2. Resolution authorizing budgetary adjustment to the fiscal year 2009/2010 final budget for the Sonoma County Water Agency Flood Control Zone 3A Valley of the Moon in the amount of \$112,000 (4/5 vote required).

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES:

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:

Estimated Cost	\$112,000	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$0
Amount Budgeted	\$0	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$0
Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)	\$0	Other Transfers (Source: Fund Balance)	\$112,000
Additional Requested	\$112,000	Additional Funds Requested	\$112,000

Explanation (if required):

Transfer an additional \$2,000 for staff time.

Prior Board Action:

None.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

None.

Background:

The Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) is a not for profit organization in Sonoma Valley that advances research, restoration, and preservation of watershed habitats and provides education for youth about the watershed, environment, and historical ecology. The SEC received a funding commitment from the State of California and began work on the Nathanson Creek Restoration Project and on the Stewardship Project.

Both projects benefit the Flood Control Zone 3A due to their focus on restoration of vegetation in the Nathanson Creek floodplain area, a modified channel for which the Agency has a maintenance easement. The Nathanson Creek Restoration Project involves extensive weed tarping, designed to minimize herbicide use, followed by replanting with native plants in collaboration with K-12 students and volunteers. The Support Stewardship project will enhance data management and coordination among stewardship groups in the Sonoma Valley.

Because of the State budgetary crisis, the State of California has frozen funding for these projects. Without these funds, the SEC has not been able to continue work on these projects. The SEC has approached the Water Agency for temporary interim funding to continue the projects. Because these projects will improve floodplains and will enhance education and collaboration which are to the benefit of the Agency's Flood Zone 3A, the Agency believes it is in the interest to provide temporary funding to SEC. The temporary funding by the Agency enables these projects will be delivered more quickly; by completing these projects quickly, the risk of flooding in Sonoma Valley will be reduced as the local weather patterns move toward more rainy and wet conditions in the Winter months.

SEC shall apply for payment from the State of California promptly and according to the terms of the agreements with the State. Within 30 days receipt of payment from the State of California, SEC shall be required to repay the Agency any outstanding funds. SEC is required to submit monthly reports regarding the status of the project and the funding from the State. Since these projects are in the interest of the Agency, no interest will be collected on the funds.

There is adequate balance in Zone 3A fund for this agreement. It is recognized that if the State fails to pay the grant funds to SEC, then SEC may be unable to make repayment according to the terms of the agreement. In that case, the Zone 3A fund is adequate to absorb the costs.

Attachments: Resolution (R1)

On File With Clerk: Agreement (4 Copies).

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: