

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 Required

Contact:

Kevin Campbell

Phone:

(707) 547-1921

Board Date:

9/29/2009

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Grant of Easement to County of Sonoma for Pedestrian/Bike Path

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Resolution determining that the granting of easement will not adversely affect the Agency in any respect, and will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, authorizing the Chair to execute an Easement Agreement conveying property rights to the County of Sonoma for a Bike Path, and authorizing the General Manager/Chief Engineer of the Agency to file a Notice of Determination in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

Explanation (if required):

None.

Prior Board Action:

03/28/06 Resolution No. 06-0257 Concurrent Resolution approving Santa Rosa Creek Restoration Project and authorizing matching grant agreement.

Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:

The County would not have rights to construct pedestrian/bike path.

Background:

In 1993, the City of Santa Rosa (City), County of Sonoma (County), and Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) adopted the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan. The Master Plan envisions restoration of the creek and creation of a multi-use open space greenbelt along the nearly 13-mile creek corridor, extending from Highway 12 near Los Alamos Road westerly to the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The Master Plan includes many specific projects to further the community’s goals to restore the creek habitat, to maintain its flood control and hydraulic capacity, and to enhance public recreation along the greenway. The project described in this agenda item implements a portion of the Master Plan by providing contiguous access along the Agency’s north levee service road and extending the current bicycle path from Fulton Road to Willowside Road.

In March of 2006, the Agency, the County, and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District entered into a matching grant agreement that required the Agency to enter into an agreement with the County to allow the County to convert the gravel road into a paved trail and maintain the improvements as needed for public pedestrian and bicycle use upon notification that the County has obtained funding for the paved trail improvements. The County has obtained funding and has completed plans for the Santa Rosa Creek Trail – Reach F Project (Project). The County has requested that the Agency execute an easement agreement for the Project. The Agency currently uses the property for flood control maintenance purposes. Agency staff has determined that the easement would not interfere with the Agency’s use of the property and will not adversely affect the Agency in any respect. The Easement Agreement is on file with the Clerk.

The County’s proposed improvements consist of the constructing of approximately 18,100 linear feet of paved trail with appurtenances. The County will be responsible for maintenance of the trail and appurtenances to include the pedestrian bridges.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the City of Santa Rosa (as Lead Agency) for the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan (Master Plan) in March 2007. The Master Plan includes creek-related policies from several previous planning documents, including the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan (1993), Santa Rosa Waterways Plan (1996), and the Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan (2002), which has been reorganized into the Citywide Creek Master Plan. The Citywide Creek Master Plan supersedes the Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan and the Santa Rosa Waterways Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to implement the Santa Rosa 2020 General Plan and to provide guidelines, policies, and criteria for the protection, care, management, restoration, and enhancement of waterways in Santa Rosa.

The County has completed an Addendum to the previously certified Master Plan EIR in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a responsible Agency for the Santa Rosa Creek Trail-Reach F Project. The County adopted the Addendum per Resolution No. 09-0616 and filed a Notice of Determination on June 23, 2009. The EIR for the Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan adequately addresses impacts of the proposed project and is determined to be in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15168(c)(2). Granting of the easement will not adversely affect the Agency’s ability to carry out its flood control responsibilities and will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The easement also has met all the requirements of Government Code, Section 65402, for General Plan consistency.

The Agency has prepared a Notice of Determination in accordance with CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines and the Agency’s Procedures for the Implementation of CEQA. The Notice of Determination states that based on the Addendum to the previously certified Master Plan EIR prepared by the County, the execution of the easement agreement would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Attachments: 1. Resolution (R1); 2. Exhibit A (A-1).

On File With Clerk: 1) Easement Agreement; 2) Agency’s Notice of Determination; 3) Resolution No. 09-0616; and 4) City of Santa Rosa Citywide Creek Master Plan

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than “Requested”)

Vote: