



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

A-9

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Agricultural
Commissioner's Office
Department No.: 051
For Agenda Of: May 4, 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

0504.26

10.00391

TO: Board of Supervisors

MAY 04 2010

FROM: Department Elena Morelos, Assistant Director, (805) 934-6200
Director(s) Guy Tingos, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, (805) 681-5600
Contact Info: David Chang, Agricultural Program Specialist, (805) 681-5600

SUBJECT: Approve the receipt of grant funds to conduct an Arundo removal project on Rincon Creek. District 1

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- Adopts the Resolution requesting authorization of receipt of grant funds to conduct the Rincon Creek Arundo Project and approves the receipt of grant funds in the amount of \$53,516 to conduct the Rincon Creek Arundo Removal Project (District 1);
- Agrees to the terms and conditions of the California Department of Fish and Game Grant Agreement as outlined in **Exhibit A**;
- Agrees, that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, in the absence of the Agricultural Commissioner, executes the Agreement with California Department of Fish and Game and
- Designates the Agricultural Program Specialist as the Project Manager.

Summary Text:

Arundo donax, an invasive weed that is detrimental to native plant diversity, wildlife habitat and increases the risk of flooding and fire, occurs sporadically on Rincon Creek. The California Dept of Fish and Game has awarded the Agricultural Commissioner's Office a \$53,516 grant to conduct an arundo eradication project on Rincon Creek. The CDFG requires a resolution from the governing board demonstrating that it has approved receipt of the grant and that it will agree to the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

Background:

Arundo donax is a fast growing, up to 30 feet tall, patch-forming perennial grass that can exclude native plants, causing a loss of native plant diversity and wildlife habitat, if allowed to establish itself in its preferred riparian habitat. It is a strong yet brittle plant that can break off during storm flows and clog up rivers and cause flooding when errant stalks are trapped under bridges, along banks, and fence lines. *Arundo donax* is very flammable. Its flammability and growth height converts a riparian corridor from a generally fire resistant habitat to a fire prone condition. *Arundo donax* contains cardiac glycosides that are toxic to wildlife. Few animals browse it, its structure prevents nesting and movement; therefore wildlife is excluded from inhabiting infestations.

The Rincon Creek Watershed Plan (May 2007) prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. for the Santa Barbara County Water Agency prioritized projects for Rincon Creek based on the level of technical impact and feasibility factors, including cost, time to complete, and landowner interest. After feasibility was taken into account, arundo eradication was ranked second in priority among six projects.

Since *Arundo donax* prefers riparian habitat, growth is only vegetative, and the infestation is sporadic, there is significant opportunity for eradication. The California Conservation Corps and a pest control business will be contracted to conduct the project. Herbicides and non-herbicidal methods will be used to treat the infestation. The Agricultural Commissioner will use methods proven successful in Santa Barbara County and elsewhere in California.

A California Department of Fish and Game official requested the Agricultural Commissioner submit the eventually successful application to the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.

Performance Measure:

Exhibit A includes the performance measures. The primary performance measure is the elimination of nine discrete arundo patches identified in the Rincon Creek Watershed Plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			\$ 53,516.00
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,516.00

Narrative: Subcontractors will be used to provide the majority of the work to conduct this project. This funding will reimburse the department for costs associated with this project over a four-year period.

Special Instructions:

Please send a minute order and a copy of the Resolution to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Attachments:

1. Resolution requesting authorization of receipt of grant funds to conduct the Rincon Creek Arundo Project
2. Exhibit A: Rincon Creek Arundo Project Statement of Work

Authored by:

David Chang

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE)
RECEIPT OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE)
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND)
GAME TO CONDUCT AN ARUNDO WEED)
REMOVAL PROJECT ON RINCON CREEK)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office has designed a project to remove the invasive weed *Arundo donax* from Rincon Creek to conserve biodiversity, reduce the risk of flood and fire, and enhance water quality;

WHEREAS the California Department of Fish and Game has approved grant funding in the amount of \$53,516 to the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office as part of the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1501.5(b) to conduct an *Arundo donax* removal project on Rincon Creek;

WHEREAS the County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office has agreed to the terms and conditions as outlined in the California Department of Fish and Game Grant Agreement attached hereto as **Exhibit A**;

WHEREAS the position of Agricultural Commissioner is currently vacant;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approves the receipt of grant funds in the amount of \$53,516 to conduct the Rincon Creek Arundo Removal Project;
- b. Agrees to the terms and conditions of the California Department of Fish and Game Grant Agreement as outlined in **Exhibit A**;
- c. Agrees, that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, in the absence of the Agricultural Commissioner, executes the Agreement with California Department of Fish and Game and;
- d. Designates the Agricultural Program Specialist as the Project Manager

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2010 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:
MICHAEL BROWN
Clerk of the Board

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: _____
Deputy

By _____
Supervisor Janet Wolf
Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS A. MARSHALL
County Counsel

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:
ROBERT W. GEIS, CPA
Auditor-Controller

By: Celeste E. Anderson Deputy By: [Signature] Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RAY AROMATORIO
Risk Manager ~~Program Administrator~~

By: [Signature]
Risk Manager

EXHIBIT A
RINCON CREEK ARUNDO REMOVAL PROJECT
STATEMENT OF WORK

Under direction of the Grantor, and under the following conditions and terms, the Grantee will:

1. Remove *Arundo donax* from 9 discrete sites in Rincon Creek, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and improve riparian habitat conditions for the southern California steelhead population in this bi-county coastal watershed. The project will include replanting of native plants as necessary to prevent erosion and re-infestation of invasive plant species. The long term benefit to adult and juvenile steelhead will be improved riparian function.
2. Rincon Creek is a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The project is located in Township 4N, Section 25 W, and Range 36 S of the Pitas Point and White Ledge Peak 7.5 Minute U.S.G.S. Quadrangles as depicted in Attachment 1, Project Location Map, which is attached and made part of this agreement by this reference (Latitude/Source 34.3874, Longitude/Source -119.4684; Latitude/Mouth 34.3471, Longitude/Mouth -119.4771). The project encompasses approximately 1.3 miles of river. All project sites are in the lower Rincon Creek, Santa Barbara County, below the confluence with Casitas Creek, Ventura County.
3. **If an amendment becomes necessary, a written request shall be made to the Grant Manager at least 115 days prior to the grant ending date of March 31, 2014.**
4. Project Tasks:
 - a) Permitting:
 - Coastal Development Permit will be required from two counties,
 - Streambed Alteration Permit,
 - Categorical Exemption. It is anticipated that this project will qualify for CEQA exemption under § 15037, Actions by Regulatory Agency for Protection of Natural Resources, and § 15333, Small Habitat Restoration Projects.
 - b) Removal:
 - Nesting Bird Survey. A nesting bird survey will be performed in all areas of proposed arundo removal and a surrounding buffer. The survey will be conducted at least 10 days prior to initiation of the arundo removal in the watershed. If nesting birds are found, arundo removal will be delayed until the nests are inactive or mitigation is possible.
 - Arundo Removal. The primary technique for arundo removal will be foliar treatment with 5-7% glyphosate mix. On properties where patches are located close to homes, a "cut stump" technique will be used, which involves a very directed, undiluted glyphosate treatment to the cut stem of arundo after they have been cut down. Some properties are organic avocado orchards. While their organic status can be maintained even if herbicides are used, they may demand organic methods. In these cases, the tarp method will be used, in which arundo is cut down and tarps are placed for over 6 months to essentially smother the infestations.
 - Habitat Restoration. It is anticipated that passive revegetation will occur at most arundo removal sites; however, in some areas active restoration may be needed. Each site will be evaluated to determine whether this will be necessary and the species to use during revegetation.

- c) Maintenance and Monitoring: The project sites will be maintained for five (5) years following the initial removal or until the declaration of successful eradication, whichever comes first. Successful eradication will be declared once no evidence of re-sprouting or new arundo plants are found on the project sites for three (3) consecutive years.
5. Deliverables: copies of all permits, all landowner access agreements, location data for all arundo patches removed, copies of any replanting plans (including the species and number of each planted) and re-treat plan. Additionally, the Grantee plans to submit annual reports starting in 2010.
 6. Upon completion of the project, the Grantee shall submit one (1) copy of a draft final report not later than January 5, 2014 for review and comment. Within **30 days** of receipt of the draft report, the Grantor's Grant Manager shall submit final comments to the Grantee. The Grantee shall submit two (2) hard copies of a final written report and one (1) electronic, *Microsoft Word* compatible, on a CD. If the project is not completed in the current year, the Grantee shall submit a summary of the completed portion no later than December 31 and again each year until completed. The report shall not be considered final until approved and accepted by the Grant Manager. The report shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the following information: (1) Grant number; (2) Project name; (3) Geographic area (e.g., watershed name); (4) Location of work – show project location using U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute topographical map or appropriately scaled topographical map; (5) Geospatial reference/location (lat/long is preferred – defined as point, line, or polygon); (6) Project start and end dates; (7) Total of each fund source, by line item, expended to complete the project, breaking down Grant dollars, by line item, and any other funding, including type of match (cash or in-kind service); (8) Total number of volunteer hours; dollar value of volunteer work; description of how the dollar value of the volunteer labor was determined; dollar value of non-volunteer donated labor; and description and dollar value of non-labor in-kind contributions to the project; (9) Expected benefits to anadromous salmonids from the project; (10) Labeled before and after photographs of any restoration activities and techniques; (11) Specific project access using public and private roads and trails, with landowner name and address; (12) Complete as built project description; and (13) Report measurable metrics for the project by responding to the restoration project metrics listed below.

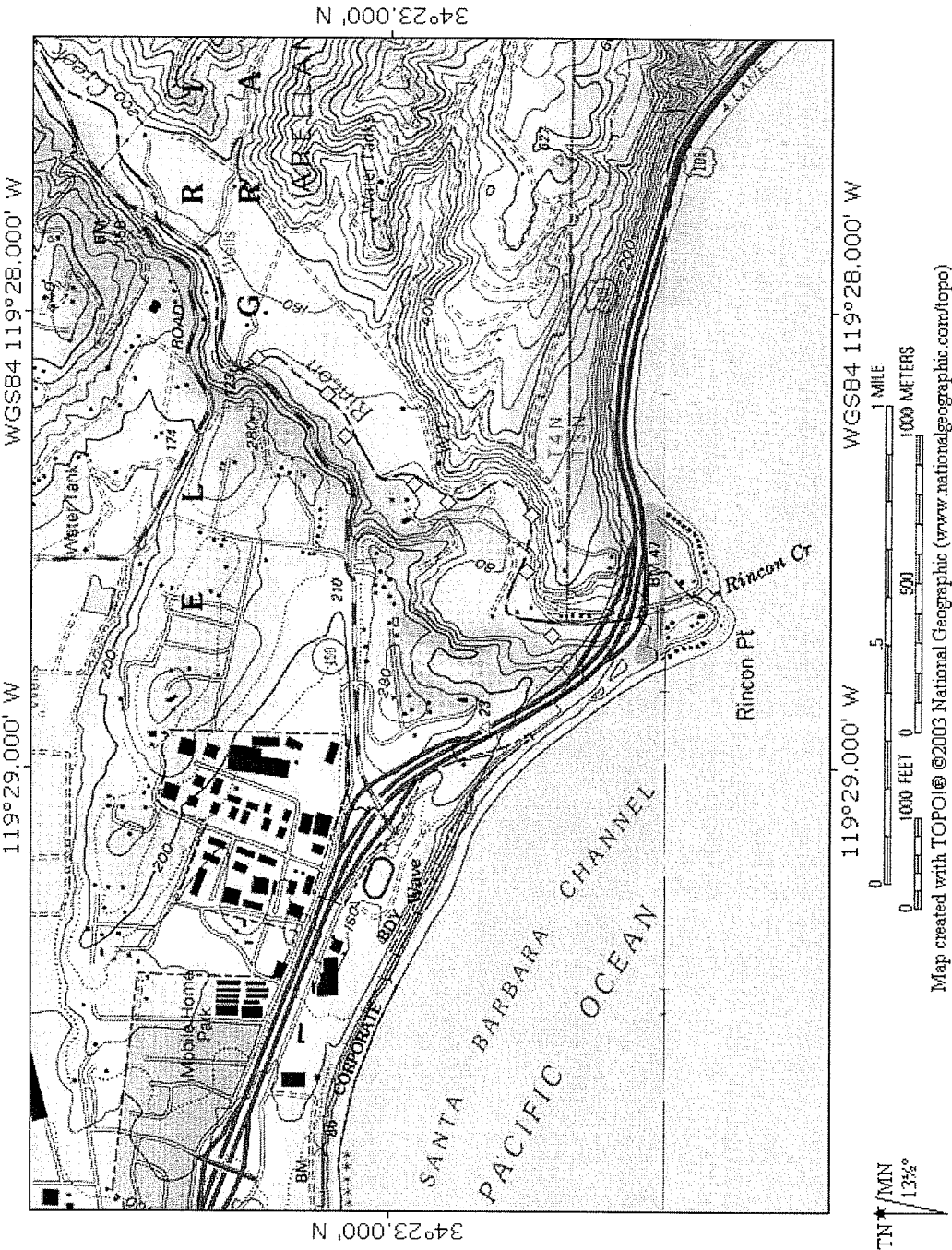
Habitat Protection and Restoration Projects – Reporting Metrics (HR)

Riparian Restoration (HR)

- Miles of stream treated overall, count stream reach only once, even if it has multiple treatments;
- Miles of riparian stream bank treated, measure both sides of the bank if appropriate;
- Total acres of riparian area treated;
- If the project involves riparian planting:
 - Number of plants;
 - Provisions made for annual survival monitoring and replanting/reseeding;
 - Provisions for watering;
 - Acres of riparian area planted;
 - Species scientific names of plants planted;
- If the project involves livestock exclusion:
 - Miles of fence installed/repaid;
 - Type of fencing material proposed;
 - Number of water gap installations;
- If the project involves plant removal/control:
 - Acres of riparian area treated for removal of non-native invasive plants;
 - Species scientific names of plants removed;
- If monitoring was included in the project:
 - Type of monitoring, select from: implementation monitoring; compliance monitoring-engineering design; compliance monitoring-project design; pre-treatment monitoring; post treatment monitoring; salmonid monitoring; non-

- salmonid biological monitoring; water flow monitoring; or physical monitoring;
and
 - Location of monitoring, select from: onsite; upstream; downstream; or upslope.
7. The Grantee will acknowledge the participation of the Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program funds on any signs, flyers, or other types of written communication or notice to advertise or explain the Rincon Creek Arundo Removal Project.

EXHIBIT A – ATTACHMENT 1
Project Location Map



FRGP 2009/2010 PSN