

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 07/29/05
Department Name: Water Agency/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04-07
Agenda Date: 08/16/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

FROM: Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, Ext. 3436
Robert Almy, PW Program Specialist, Ext. 3542

SUBJECT: **Agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc. to Provide Design Services for the Department of Fish & Game Fisheries Restoration Grant, Rincon Creek Watershed Plan Project, First Supervisorial District**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc., (a local vendor) to develop a watershed plan for the Rincon Creek watershed on the south coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties from August 16, 2005 though January 31, 2007 in the amount not to exceed \$103,991.00

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On October 5, 2004, your Board accepted grant funds from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and authorized the Public Works Director to execute a grant agreement with DFG to develop a Rincon Creek Watershed Plan. This funding will allow development of a single community-based plan for the Rincon Creek Watershed in both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The Community Environmental Council (CEC) is managing the voluntary watershed stakeholder group, the Rincon Creek Watershed Council, which would provide for the broadest possible public participation in the watershed planning effort.

Development of a watershed plan will provide a forum for first identifying issues of concern then evaluating the severity of these issues in the watershed, and finally identifying and prioritizing potential solutions. Two issues already identified in the Rincon Creek watershed are steelhead passage barriers and erosion/sedimentation. The geology of the watershed, in combination with agricultural and other types of land use, has created a significant sediment load in the creek. Staff

are also working with the Rincon Creek Watershed Council to identify other areas of concern to be addressed in the plan.

In fall of 2004, Water Agency staff began working with the CEC and Ventura County staff to contact Rincon watershed residents and solicit their participation in the watershed plan development. This outreach effort resulted in the creation of the Rincon Creek Watershed Council (RCWC), which has been meeting on a monthly basis since November 2004. Stakeholders on the RCWC include residents from the Rincon Homeowners Association, and agricultural growers from the mid and upper reaches of the watershed, as well as staff from Ventura County, CALTRANS, the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Watershed Coalition, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Central Coast and Los Angeles), and DFG.

Tetra Tech Inc. was selected by a review committee comprising RCWC members, and County and CEC staff. Tetra Tech staff will attend RCWC meetings, perform a watershed assessment, analyze existing data and perform a gaps analysis, and develop goals and objectives. After a reconnaissance survey of the watershed has been performed, Tetra Tech will analyze this data and begin development of the draft plan. Stakeholders will be kept apprised of plan development progress and will be vital in providing review and input at each step. Copies of the draft plan will be provided to the RCWC, and County and CEC staff, and revisions will be made according to comments received from these entities and the public. The final plan is scheduled to be completed in January 2007.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Staff time will be required to implement this project. Staff participation in this project is paid for under a Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Grant received by the County in 2004.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding for this agreement will be paid from the grant agreement from the DFG. Staff will process a budget revision to allocate funds for this agreement and to also accept the funding.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to return two executed originals of the agreement along with the minute order to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez

Concurrence: County Counsel and Auditor-Controller