



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Flood Control/Public Works
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: 05/19/09
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: **Authorization to Apply for State and Federal Funding to respond to the Jesusita Fire, 1st and 2nd Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: no

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Directors:

Authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to apply for and to execute any and all agreements, subsequent amendments, and documents with State and Federal agencies to receive funding from various programs for watershed protection work in response to the Jesusita Fire.

Summary Text:

The Jesusita Fire started on May 5, 2009 and burned almost 9,000 acres fuelled by extreme weather conditions and high winds. As experienced with previous fires, a burned watershed exhibits a drastically enhanced response the following winter including a dramatic increase in runoff volumes and correspondingly dramatic increases in debris production.

In the case of the Jesusita Fire, a very serious condition exists downstream. Several locations downstream have experienced flooding in years past. The risk for flooding following the fire is extreme because much higher rates of sedimentation and woody debris is expected. The woody debris can clog bridges and culverts and induce flooding that would otherwise not occur. Sedimentation and rocks can fill in channels and reduces flood flow capacity, thus aggressive desilting operations will be needed to provide maximum capacity.

Damage assessment to the affected watersheds is now under way. A watershed response plan will be prepared and taken to your Board for approval and will include a variety of actions most likely very similar to the work that has been done in response to both the Gap and Tea Fires. The type of work typically includes but may not be limited to:

- vegetation hazard reduction/clearing,
- installation of debris racks,
- aerial hydromulching,
- excavation of existing debris basins, and
- emergency protective measures.

Background:

The watersheds that will be assessed for potential flood protection work are the following eight affected watersheds: Maria Ygnacia, San Antonio, Cieneguitas/Atascadero, Barger Canyon, San Roque, Rattlesnake, Mission Canyon, and Cold Springs. While all the downstream risks associated with the burned area of the Jesusita Fire cannot be eliminated, staff believes that prompt implementation of the emergency watershed response plan is needed prior to the onset of the coming rains.

With the State of Emergency proclamation signed by the Governor, the County may be eligible to receive state and federal funding to respond to the potential flood threat caused by the fire. This action is need by the Board to allow staff to apply for these funding sources.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Narrative:

Costs for the watershed response work caused by the Jesusita Fire were not included in the Adopted Budget for this fiscal year or next. Flood Control will be returning to the Board to approve a budget revision to allocate costs from designations once estimated costs of the work are known.

Because the fire was State Declared Emergency some of these project costs may be reimbursable through the State Office of Emergency Services and also the USDA National Resource Conservation District.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order to Flood Control District office, attn: Christina Lopez.

Authored by: Tom Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436