



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: 2nd District - BOS
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: 12/5/2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 45 min.
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board Member(s) Supervisor Susan Rose
Contact Info: Rachel Couch x2195

SUBJECT: **2nd District Watershed Protection and Restoration Pilot Projects: 2nd District NRAC County Lands Inventory and San Jose Creek Watershed Plan**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing on December 19th, 2006 for an informational briefing on two pilot watershed planning efforts undertaken in the 2nd District, and that the Board receive and file both the *2nd District County Lands Inventory with Enhancement Opportunities and Recommendations Report (2004-05)* and the *San Jose Creek Watershed Plan (2006)*.

Background:

Since 1999, when concerns about ocean and creek water quality helped spur the creation of the County Project Clean Water, the 2nd District office has supported the development of local and regional public-private partnerships to work on solutions to complex water quality problems through improved planning and management of watershed resources and implementation of habitat restoration projects. Two reports have resulted from working groups formed by the 2nd District office with County staff, community, and public agency involvement. Through the 2nd District Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC), an Inventory of County-owned and managed open spaces in the 2nd District was conducted and completed in 2004.

The *Final San Jose Creek Watershed Plan (Plan)* was the result of a four year community-based stakeholder group process sponsored by the 2nd District and facilitated by County Water Agency staff. San Jose Creek was chosen as a pilot watershed planning project in response to community interest and in order to test a collaborative approach to addressing problems such as water quality, water supply, groundwater recharge, flooding, erosion, sedimentation, habitat degradation and invasive species, all of which are best addressed on a watershed scale. The *Plan*, revised and completed this year, gathers baseline data about the resources in the watershed, identifies watershed values and issues, develops

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potential projects and long term solutions, reflects community priorities, improves funding eligibility, facilitates regulatory compliance, and offers a template for use in other watersheds. The Plan can also lead to improved habitat quality and improved property values for landowners adjacent to creeks as a result of increased certainty about the future condition of resources within the watershed.

Both the *County Lands Inventory* and *San Jose Creek Watershed Plan* are pilot projects designed as informational resources to serve the community and local agencies in guiding future watershed and open space protection and habitat restoration efforts.

Summary:

2nd District County Lands Inventory

Through the 2nd District Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC), an inventory of County-owned and managed open spaces in the 2nd District was begun in 2000 and completed in 2004. The *Inventory* offers a natural resources baseline for future considerations regarding management, ecological restoration, and recreational enhancement of publicly owned open spaces—neighborhood pocket parks along creek corridors and other areas—comprising a total of 513 acres in the eastern Goleta Valley. The document, organized by watershed, describes the community value of these open spaces and identifies both recreational and ecological enhancement opportunities for selected sites. The *Inventory* and corresponding *Recommendations Report* was received by the Park Commission in 2005. In 2006, the County received a CSAC Merit Award for NRAC and its work.

San Jose Creek Watershed Plan

Although watershed planning is more common in other regions of the country, it is a relatively new concept in southern California. In 2001, the Board of Supervisors expressed interest in developing a pilot watershed plan as a way to integrate the County’s commitment to water quality improvement, flood control and public safety, and responsible land use planning with community priorities. The San Jose Creek watershed was selected because, while it is fairly typical of the South Coast’s urban creeks that have been impacted by urban development, it is also in relatively good condition through its upper and middle reaches and may present many opportunities to improve and protect riparian resources. The Planning Commission voted on November 8, 2006 to recommend that the Board of Supervisor receive and file the *Final San Jose Creek Watershed Plan (2006)*.

Performance Measures:

No performance measures were developed for the reports. Both reports were completed within budgets allocated.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes No

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			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

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Narrative:

Both reports completed within budgets allocated.

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

A. *2nd District County Lands Inventory with Enhancement Opportunities (2004) and Recommendations Report (2005)*

<http://www.countyofsb.org/susanrose/nrac/nrac-web.nrac.asp>

B. *Final San Jose Creek Watershed Plan (2006)*

<http://www.sbprojectcleanwater.org/sanjose.htm>

Authored by:

Rachel Couch, Administrative Assistant, Office of the 2nd District, County of Santa Barbara.

cc:

Ron Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer

Phil Demery, Director, Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Public Works Department

Rob Almy, Manager, Water Agency, Water Resources Division, Santa Barbara County Public Works Department