

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 08/30/05
Department Name: Public Works/Water Agency
Department No.: 054-04-07
Agenda Date: 10/18/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara

Board of Directors
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

FROM: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Director

STAFF CONTACT: Thomas Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director
Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager (Ext. 3542)

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution accepting Grant Funds from the California Department of Fish and Game for design alternatives for modification of road crossings in Quiota Creek, Third Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution to accept Grant Funds from the California Department of Fish and Game for design alternatives for modification of road crossings in Quiota Creek; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director or his designee to enter into the attached Grant Agreement (and all other subsequent agreements or amendments to receive grant funding to develop design alternatives for modification of road crossings in Quiota Creek.

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Authorize the Chair to execute the attached MOU to transfer administrative responsibilities for this project to Cachuma Conservation and Release Board (CCRB) and to provide a mechanism to bill the State for certain CCRB costs under this Grant.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendations align with Goal No. 5: Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for all Residents.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

Introduction

Quiota Creek is a tributary of the Santa Ynez River, located approximately 40 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. Refugio Road, owned by the County, serves the residents of the Quiota creek watershed. The road crosses the creek 9 times; several of these crossings are impediments to fish passage, affecting steelhead trout. Modification of these impediments is included in the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan. This grant would provide resources to evaluate engineering alternatives for modifying these crossings in a safe and cost effective manner. Specific tasks include:

- Hire an engineering consultant to conduct data synthesis and analysis to formulate recommendations for a cost-effective, options for fish passage modification of the existing barriers;
- Conduct basic assessment of the watershed and each crossing
- The Project Team and Consultant will review and evaluate proposed alternatives;
- Conduct at least 4 meetings with the project team, the landowners, and regulatory agencies and other stakeholders;
- Develop the final project design alternatives for the crossings, which will include cost estimate, benefits and constraints;
- Pursue implementation monies for replacement of the barrier crossings; and
- Prepare the Quiota Creek Watershed Fish Passage Addendum to the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan, if necessary.

The federal government has listed both Steelhead and Coho Salmon as endangered species in certain areas and as threatened species in others. Local interest have attempted to address issues related to this action through development of plans and projects which emphasize local benefits and take into account local conditions and concerns. One of these efforts is the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan whose implementation is primarily the responsibility of the CCRB. However, since crossings on Quiota Creek are on a County Road, funding has been acquired to assist the County to evaluate alternative designs for improving fish passage.

The CCRB has approved the attached MOU and has agreed to provide administrative support and stakeholder organizational assistance to the County to allow County staff to focus on the design aspects of the process.

Past Board Actions

On June 26, 2001 your Board approved the Water Agency's participation in "Memorandum of Understanding for Implementation of the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan", including modification of the Quiota Creek migration impediments, and directed staff to seek grant funding to evaluate design alternatives. On June 12, 2004 application was made to DFG for a grant to perform this alternatives study.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Approval of the application of this grant will potentially increase our resources and allow the Water Agency to meet its obligations as a signatory to the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan MOU.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Quiota Creek Alternatives Study Grant Request:

▪ Personnel Expenses (Roads Division)	\$ 8,500.00
▪ <u>Operating Expenses (CCRB)</u>	<u>\$40,909.00</u>
Total	\$49,409.00
Water Agency Administrative Costs*	\$ 2,375.00
DFG grant funds requested	\$49,409.00
<u>CCRB contribution</u>	<u>\$31,475.00</u>
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost	\$83,259.00

Adopt a Resolution to Receive Grant Funds from the Department of Fish and Game

October 18, 2005

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* Water Agency overhead to be considered “in-kind contribution” for purposes of this grant

This grant was not included in the 2005-06 Budget. Once the Board has approved these board actions, staff will process a budget revision to accept the grant funding.

Special Instructions:

Director the Clerk of the Board to send a certified copy of the resolution and two originals of the MOU along with a minute to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

cc: CCRB