

# 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:** 01/21/05  
**Department Name:** Water Agency/Public Works  
**Department No.:** 054-04-07  
**Agenda Date:** 03/15/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**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  
Rory Lang, PW Program Specialist, Ext. 3545

**SUBJECT:** **Agreement with Questa Engineering Corp to Provide Design Services for the California Coastal Conservancy Fish Passage Project Grant, First Supervisorial District**

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation of Point Richard, California for design services for the planning, design and permitting of fish passage barrier modification projects along various creeks along the South Coast of Santa Barbara County though June 30, 2006 in the amount not to exceed \$129,580.23.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

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

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

On December 2, 2003, your Board adopted Resolution No. 03-369 to accept the terms and conditions of the Standard Agreement (Contract #03-099) with the California Coastal Conservancy to receive grant funding for the *Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Project Development Program*. This funding will expedite the planning, design and permitting of local fish barrier modification projects. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency has worked with landowners, regulatory agencies and local fisheries restoration advocacy groups to develop a prioritization strategy for the local fish passage improvement project inventory and to select six or more projects from this list that would then be planned, designed, and permitted with this grant funding. These projects would only be pursued if the land owner was in agreement with forwarding the project.

The objective of the Program is to alleviate the bottleneck in project planning and design that prevents on-the-ground fish passage improvement projects from being implemented on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. This Program is focused only on South Coast streams because

projects in northern Santa Barbara County watersheds (Sisquoc and Santa Ynez River) are predominantly on private or Forest Service property (Sisquoc) or have a process in place for fish passage project completion (*Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan*).

Water Agency staff began the process of project selection with a workshop in December 2003 with interested members of the public, including landowners, and developed a Technical Advisory Committee to finalize the projects selected during the public meeting process. Since a number of the projects selected through this process are on private land, the Water Agency has worked closely with watershed groups that work with private landowners to develop mutually beneficial projects with landowner approval.

This contract specifically addresses two projects, Gobernador Debris Basin, and a private summer crossing on Carpinteria Creek. These projects are either public facilities, or have the full support of the land owner. Other projects were identified, however they are not moving forward until, and only if, the property owners are contacted and they offer their support.

To that end, the Water Agency distributed a Request for Proposals on June 2, 2004. Five proposals were received and evaluated by a selection committee composed of County engineers, Water Agency staff, California Department of Fish and Game staff, and representatives from local fisheries interests in Santa Barbara. Questa Engineering was selected as the contractor by the selection committee to provide planning, design and permitting services for private projects associated with the *Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Project Development Program* at a rate not to exceed \$129,580.23. Following the completion of the planning, design and permitting for the two projects listed under this contract, implementation of the projects on private land would then be pursued by the landowner with funding through grants or other sources and assistance from other appropriate agencies.

It is important to note that additional projects may be added to the Scope of Work as additional landowner outreach is conducted and other projects are approved by private landowners. The Water Agency will return to the Board to amend this contract if additional projects are approved. Projects to be developed will be submitted in writing to Questa Engineering Inc. as they are approved by the landowner.

### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

Staff time will be required to implement this project. Staff participation in the project helps the County meet its obligations as a signatory to the Tri-County F.I.S.H. (Funding for Improved Salmonid Habitat) Team MOU.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Costs associated with this agreement were included in the 2004/05 Adopted Budget and were allocated in the Water Agency Cost Center under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-326 in the budget book. Costs from this agreement will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Acct: 7460, Program: 3011.

### **Special Instructions:**

Agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation for Design Services

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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