

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on:
Department Name: Water Agency/Public Works
Department No.: 054-04-07
Agenda Date: 10/14/03
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
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)
Rory Lang, PW Program Specialist, (Ext. 3545)

SUBJECT: **Concur with the Proposed Block Grant Application to the California Coastal Conservancy**

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

Concur with the application to the California Coastal Conservancy to provide funds to the County Water Agency for \$453,000 for planning, design, and permitting of a select number of fish passage improvement projects on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County.

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:

A Block Grant from the California Coastal Conservancy is available for planning, design, and permitting of a select number of fish passage improvement projects on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. The types of projects eligible for this funding include, but are not limited to, improving fish passage at barriers including culverts, debris basins, channelized streambeds, and Arizona crossings.

In Santa Barbara County, steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as endangered, but efforts to restore local populations are in their infancy. Surveys of habitat assessments and identification of barriers to fish passage have been completed. Therefore, the next step for agencies in the area is to begin the process of planning, design and permitting. In order to expedite the planning, design and permitting of local priority projects, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency is proposing to act as the local coordinator in the development of a prioritization strategy for the local fish passage improvement project inventory and the prioritization and selection of six or more projects from this list that would then be moved through the planning, design, and permitting stages so that funding from other agencies could be pursued for the implementation of those projects.

The objective of the project 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 project will focus 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*).

Mandates and Service Levels:

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

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The proposed budget for the project is shown below. The Coastal Conservancy will provide funding for Water Agency staff support of the project, but does require matching funds. Santa Barbara County has already designated some of its Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding for the development of a steelhead project priority list. Therefore \$10,000 from the County’s CIAP funding can serve as a match for this project. In addition, matching funds will be provided through the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Flood Control) for construction following design and planning efforts provided through funding from the Coastal Conservancy. The Flood Control District’s Capital Improvement Projects schedule includes plans for renovating Gobernador Debris Basin due to excessive silt build-up during high flows. If this basin is chosen as the top priority basin for fish passage improvement, the Flood Control District, will provide \$200,000 (from the South Coast Flood Zone Fund 2610 or grant funds, if available) for the construction of the project with fish passage improvements provided through the design and planning phases of grant project. Flood Control will then monitor the total construction costs associated with the designed project and the performance of the design during at least one year with high flow to determine if the design can be incorporated into other debris basin renovations as other grant funds become available

| Santa Barbara County Fish Passage Project Development Program Budget | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Administrative Overhead | \$ 5,000 |
| Project Management (county staff time) | \$25,000 |
| Watershed assessment (consultants) | \$15,000 |
| Watershed assessment (County Match CIAP funds) | \$10,000 |
| Public Information | \$3,000 |
| County staff training | \$ 8,000 |
| Planning, Design, and Permitting (6 projects - 1 Debris Basin, 2 Arizona Crossings, 1 Culvert Replacement, 2 Channelized Areas) | \$397,000* |
| TOTAL | \$463,000 |
| Local Match (Flood Control District or other Grants) | \$200,000 (for construction) |

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of this action to the Water Agency office, Attn: Christina Lopez.