

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: 05/03/05
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: Adopt a Resolution to apply for Grant Funds from the California Department of Fish and Game for the Tri-County F.I.S.H Team

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Directors:

- A. Adopt the attached Resolution to apply for grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the Tri-County F.I.S.H Team; and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to enter into the Grant Agreement and all other subsequent agreements or amendments to receive grant funding for the Tri-County F.I.S.H Team, if it is awarded; and
- C. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute any necessary agreements to transfer administrative responsibilities for this project to another entity by the end of the calendar year.

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

The “Tri-County F.I.S.H Team” (TCFT) is an assembly of public agencies and other private entities throughout San Luis, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The purpose of the group is to coordinate regional efforts relating to steelhead projects and provide planning support and compete for state grant funding for future projects. When the group was originated, a consultant served as project manager and a local agency served as administrator of grant funds. This arrangement was not effective. In 2003 staff from the Water Agency agreed to serve as administrator since staff costs could be compensated through the grant. It is planned to transfer this responsibility to another signatory of the TCFT MOU and to continue to do so on an annual basis to allow for adequate regional oversight of the TCFT.

The TCFT work is accomplished through an “executive committee” open to any public agencies and members of the public (see [Attachment B](#)). Public agencies that are currently members of the TCFT include:

- Cambria Community Services District
- Coastal San Luis RCD
- Cachuma Conservation and Release Board
- City of Carpinteria
- County of Santa Barbara
- SY River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1
- Casitas Municipal Water District
- County of Ventura
- City of San Luis Obispo
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Cachuma RCD
- City of Santa Barbara
- SB County Fish & Game Commission
- City of Ventura
- United Water Conservation District

In addition, several other private entities are involved.

Background

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 “The Tri-County F.I.S.H Team” which is funded mainly by grants from the State of California. The TCFT is a cooperative effort among private groups and public agencies from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. It is believed that as part of a regional group individual project proponents can better compete for grant funds for projects in the tri-county area.

Staff is aware that the Board has an interest in all activities related to Steelhead in Santa Barbara County and is committed to a full discussion in the near future. However, the grant for the ongoing TCFT needs to be accepted so as to provide continuity for activities throughout the tri-counties.

A member of the Water Agency staff has been designated as the current “Local Coordinator” (grant administrator) for the TCFT. Due to staffing issues, this responsibility will have to be shifted to another agency within the group as soon as possible. (Discussions are underway to shift responsibility for the “Local Coordinator” to one of the other Counties by the end of this calendar year). The Water Agency would remain on the Executive Committee.

The purpose of the TCFT is to work with federal, state, and local agencies and non-governmental groups to:

- secure funding in support of projects related to salmonid designation under the ESA,
- improve information about potential restoration and recovery activities, and
- enhance public understanding and support for such actions in the tri-county area.

Past Board Actions

On July 8, 2003, your Board approved a grant request to the Department of Fish & Game for funding of the Tri-County F.I.S.H Team and on June 1, 2004, your Board approved a resolution accepting a grant in the amount of \$68,500 for the Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team. One of the items of work from the recent grant is to apply for continued funding of the TCFT group.

Proposed New Actions

This grant application to the DFG for administration of the Tri-County F.I.S.H Team activities will provide funding for the 2006-2007 fiscal year for the TCFT. Work to be performed under this grant includes:

- Development of regional Best Management Practices to expedite permits for in-channel work (by public or private interests),
- Implementation of a technical training program for agencies, and landowners,
- Holding public outreach workshops, and
- Continuing to serve as a regional informational clearing-house for fish related activities.

One advantage to the County’s continued involvement is to protect the interest of the County and land owners. Through continued involvement, Staff would work to ensure that any work the TCFT does (such as BMP development) would LESSEN the regulatory burden on agencies and land owners. Staff would oppose any project or work element that would do otherwise.

For example, development of the BMP’s for in channel work could impact the County’s Flood Control District, Transportation Division, and perhaps Parks and other City Departments if not done right. Your staff’s involvement in this activity will mean that no BMP’s that adversely effect the ability of another agency to do its work will be supported. If the County were not on the Executive Committee, work would still continue, however our input would not be heard.

In addition, having land owner support for a project is crucial for its success. Accordingly, staff will only support projects that have the land owner’s support, whether that is a private property owner, or an agency.

Cost

For the period of the grant, the cost to the Water Agency will be \$2,500 due to in-kind staff time for the Executive Committee member. The grant compensates the county for all staff time of the Local Coordinator.

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 Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team MOU.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Tri-County F.I.S.H Team Grant Request:	
▪ Personnel Expenses*	\$25,000.00
▪ Operating Expenses	\$70,500.00
Total	\$95,500.00
 DFG grant funds requested	 \$95,500.00

TCFT Executive Committee In-Kind (spread among all members)**	\$20,250.00
TOTAL Estimated Project Cost	\$115,750.00

* \$25,000 will pay for Water Agency staff support

* *These in-kind services are provided through participation in the Executive Committee, which comprises a local government representative, local agency representative, and public member from each county.

Grant Funds for Water Agency staff time will be deposited in Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Acct: 4339, Program: 3012. Expenditures relating to the Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Acct: 7460, Program: 3012. These costs are included in the proposed FY 2005-06 Budget under the Water Agency cost center of the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department.

cc: Ventura County
San Luis Obispo County
Cambria Community Services District
Casitas Municipal Water District

ATTACHMENT A

Tri-County F.I.S.H. Team
(Funding for Improved Salmonid Habitat)

Executive Committee

San Luis Obispo Representatives

Local Government – Eric Wier (County of San Luis Obispo)
Local Sponsoring Agency – Ben Boer (Cambria Community Services District)
Public Member – Richard Hawley (Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust)

County of Santa Barbara

Local Government - Rob Almy (County of Santa Barbara)
Local Sponsoring Agency – Kate Rees (Cachuma Conservation Release Board)
Public Member – To be appointed.

County of Ventura

Local Government – Don Davis (City of Ventura)
Local Sponsoring Agency – John Johnson (Casitas Municipal Water District)
Public Member – Dennis Harper (Matilija Fly Fishers)