



**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

**Submitted on:**  
(COB Stamp)

**Department Name:** Water Agency  
**Department No.:** 054-04-07  
**For Agenda Of:** 10/17/06  
**Placement:** Set Hearing  
**Estimate Time:** 15 minutes on 10/24/06  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Directors, Water Agency  
**FROM:** Department Director: Phillip M. Demery, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542  
**SUBJECT:** Agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation of Point Richard, California to Provide Design Services for the California Coastal Conservancy Fish Passage Project Grant, First Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence:**

As to form/legality:  Yes  No  N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence:**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Recommended Action(s):**

That the Board of Directors:

Set a hearing on October 24, 2006 on the Departmental Agenda (ESTIMATED TIME: 15 minutes) to consider the following recommendations:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation of Point Richmond, California for design services for the planning, design and permitting of fish passage barrier modification projects in two creeks in the Montecito/Carpinteria areas and one creek in the City of Santa Barbara, within the South Coast of Santa Barbara County, from October 24, 2006 through June 30, 2007 in the amount not to exceed \$259,855.00.

**Summary:**

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 was intended to 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 pursuant to the work plan for the grant. Due to staffing issues, this project has been delayed and staff has refocused on fewer potential projects. In addition, the projects to be developed pursuant to this contract involve publicly owned facilities; any resulting project would only be pursued if the owner and the surrounding land owners were in agreement with any proposed project. The Consultant contract will be provided in the Board agenda letter prepared for your October 24<sup>th</sup> hearing.

**Background:**

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 initially selected through this process were on private land, the Water Agency worked closely with watershed groups that work with private landowners to develop mutually beneficial projects with landowner approval.

This contract addresses facilities whose owners are aware of this evaluation process. These projects are either public facilities, or have 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 concurrence.

The Water Agency originally 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. Survey work associated with this design effort will be contracted separately through a departmental process.

Originally the projects were all located in the Carpinteria and Montecito Creeks watersheds. However, concerns about channel capacity cause the work to be refocused on Carpinteria and San Ysidro Creeks. In addition, several projects were completed in the interim so other projects have been substituted. Finally, the City of Santa Barbara has requested that two sites owned by the City be evaluated as part of the grant. Therefore, in June 2006 the bid process was reinitiated; the proposed contract is the result of that process. Following the completion of the planning, preliminary design and permit application preparation for the projects listed under this contract, the facilities' owners may choose to complete the projects. The planning, design and permitting information is intended to expedite obtaining grants or other funding.

As further background, the Santa Barbara County region has benefited from several grants totaling well over \$10 million from the Coastal Conservancy in the last few years. The include grants for planning, construction of water quality structures, erosion control projects, wetland and other habitat restoration and beach access facilities. One criterion for obtaining future grants from this agency will be the County's ongoing success in executing grant work plans.

**Examples of Recent Coastal Conservancy Grants**

<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Stormdrain retrofits	South-coast	\$2,100,000
Public access facilities (stairs)	Third District	\$ 150,000
Goleta Beach Planning	Second District	\$ 50,000
Santa Rosa erosion control	Third District	\$ 500,000

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for this consultant contract from Grant Contract #03-099 was included in the 2006-07 Budget, but a level below that necessary. If your Board approves this contract, staff will bring a budget revision to increase revenue from the grant to total \$299,855.00 needed to match to cost of the Consultant Contract plus \$40,000 for survey work; the budget revision would increase authorized expenditures by the same amount. This action would be brought to your board as part of the next cycle of budget revisions in late October 2006. The 2006/07 Adopted Budget shows the approved allocation (\$120,000) in the Water Agency Cost Center under the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-322 in the budget book. Costs from this agreement will be paid from Dept: 054, Fund: 3050, Acct: 7460, Program: 3012.

Budgeted:  Yes  No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized Cost:</u>	<u>Total Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State (CCC Grant)	\$ 299,855		\$ 299,855
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 299,855	\$ -	\$ 299,855

Narrative:

**Staffing Impact(s):**

**Legal Positions:**

**FTEs:**

Staff time would be required to manage this project. Existing staff resources are sufficient to accomplish the work associated with this grant. Staff participation in the project would help the County meet its obligations as a signatory to the Tri-County F.I.S.H. (Funding for Improved Salmonid Habitat) Team MOU. Direct staff costs would be covered by a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.

**Special Instructions:**

**Attachments: (list all)**

**Authored by: Robert Almy, Water Agency Manager, 568-3542**

**cc:**