



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

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: November 8, 2016
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: **Approve a Joint Grant Application with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment for Possible Grant Funds Available from the Refugio Reach Oil Spill, First, Second, and Third Supervisorial Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and authorize the Flood Control District to partner with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment to submit a joint grant application for modification to certain South Coast Debris Basins a potential restoration project to be considered in the Natural Resources Damage Assessment for the Refugio Oil Spill; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is related to the creation of a government funding mechanism and other fiscal activities which do not involve a commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Guideline Section 15378 (b)(4).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Flood Control District (District) to partner with the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) and jointly apply for potential grant funds available as a result of the Refugio Beach Oil Spill. The District seeks grant funding on an ongoing basis from federal, state, and other sources for a variety of flood control projects. The District has received several grants over the last few years for the removal or modification of debris basins. Without grant funding some of these projects would not have been feasible.

Background:

As a result of the Refugio Beach Oil Spill, state and federal trustee agencies (trustees), in cooperation with local cities, counties, and other organizations are working to assess the ecological injuries and human use losses caused by the spill. Through this process, known as a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), the trustees intend to quantify the injuries to wildlife, habitat, and lost use of those resources, and to develop a restoration plan. The trustees will ultimately make a claim for funds from the responsible party to implement restoration projects designed to both restore and compensate for the injured resources and human activities.

One of the steps within the NRDA process is to identify potential restoration ideas that will then be evaluated within the Damage Assessment Restoration Plan (DARP). The trustees work with the public to select and implement restoration projects which are best suited to recover damages to injured wildlife, habitats or lost services. Examples of restoration include replanting wetlands, improving fish access sites, and restoring bird habitat.” (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/Refugio>)

The NRDA process for the selection of projects has several criteria and staff believes that a debris basin removal or modification project would compete well in the process. In addition, partnering with BEACON makes the application stronger given multiple benefits achieved including; fish passage, improved sediment transport to the beach, and reduced Flood Control District operations costs.

Approval of the recommendations would allow the District to apply for grants within the time constraints of the granting agencies. Staff would return to the Board for final approval and acceptance of funds if grant funding is awarded.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Narrative:

These recommendations have no fiscal impacts at this time.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of these actions to the Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Authored by:

Maureen Spencer, Operations and Environmental Manager, 568-3437