



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: January 20, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: 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: Grant Application Approval for the Urban Streams Restoration Program, Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- A. Adopt a resolution entitled "In the Matter of Endorsing an Application for an Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant," as a co-sponsor with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, authorizing the Public Works Director or his designee to apply, accept and execute a grant agreement for the North Campus Open Space Devereux Creek Floodplain Restoration Project and authorizing the Land Trust to act as Project Manager; and
- B. Find that the proposed action is related to creation of a government funding and other fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and is therefore not a project under CEQA pursuant to Guideline Section 15378(b)(4).

Summary Text:

The Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) has proposed to co-sponsor a grant application with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County for available funds through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban Streams Restoration Program (USRP) for the North Campus Open Space Devereux Creek Floodplain Restoration Project which will result in restoration of the former Ocean Meadows Golf Course property in Goleta now owned by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity & Ecological Restoration (CCBER) has asked the District to co-sponsor the grant application because the grant specifically requires the

application to come from a citizen's group and a local agency sponsor. UCSB, as a state organization, cannot directly apply for the grant. The grant application is for \$1,000,000.

The 60±-acre floodplain at the junction of Devereux and Phelps Creeks was filled with soil from the adjacent uplands in 1965 to create a golf course that left the creek in a channelized form, added 3-10 feet of fill and significantly reduced habitat for fish and wildlife. These impacts remain and contribute to localized flooding problems for Goleta City residents living adjacent to these creeks. The proposed project will reverse these impacts by removing approximately 250,000 cubic yards of fill from the floodplain of these creeks at the interface with Devereux Slough as part of Phase 1. The project will provide flood control benefits to the residents living north and east of the project site, restore and protect riparian and diverse wetland and upland habitats, thereby providing wildlife habitat for dozens of species, including several identified by federal and state governments as threatened or endangered species. The project will also promote community involvement through public outreach, public access trails, and restoration activities, as well as educational programs and signage that will benefit community members for years to come.

The flood control benefits will primarily arise after the full amount of fill soil is removed from the channel and floodplain of Devereux Creek and its tributaries. This grant funding is intended to be primarily used to fulfill this specific goal of the larger project. It is anticipated that none of the residences currently in the 100-year flood zone will remain in that zone after the project is completed. The project will also play an important role in buffering the community from future flooding that could be exacerbated with anticipated sea level rise associated with climate change.

Background:

Since 2003, the District has performed annual flood control maintenance along the portion of Devereux Creek that runs through the former golf course by mowing the bulrush growing within the channel and performing as-needed excavation of the sediment basin in the northern section of the golf course to maintain flow capacity so nearby residences do not flood. Because the endangered tidewater goby has taken up residence in the system, management of Devereux Creek has become complicated and the District would prefer to eliminate the need to perform annual maintenance.

CCBER has been engaging District staff over the past several years during the early planning phases of this project to ensure that the restoration goals are consistent with our needs for reducing flood hazards to nearby development. We are supportive of the shared mission of creating a self-sustaining system that will be designed to carry natural sediment flows to the ocean and eliminate the need for significant on-going management.

This project has already received several grants from both state and federal agencies. State contributions include \$100,000 from the Coastal Conservancy and \$1million from the California Natural Resources Agency. Federal contributions include \$1.5 million from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant. Regardless of whether the Urban Stream Grant is issued for this project, the District has committed to providing \$100,000 to the project to be used for hydrologic studies and a final grading plan and has included a portion of this amount in the 2013/2014 budget and will include additional funds in the next fiscal year's budget. If the Urban Streams Grant is awarded, the District will return to the board to execute a Cooperative Agreement with UCSB that outlines the roles of the agencies involved with the grant.

Support from DWR through the USRP is crucial to this project because it will provide the necessary portion of the project costs that will allow the project to proceed with the funds raised to date. The looming 2017 deadlines on the secured funds, from the USFWS and the California Natural Resources Agency, in conjunction with the investments already made in purchasing the property, make funding this project component crucial. USRP funding will allow implementation of Phase 1 of this project which will provide the lion's share of the benefits for the least investment.

Restored floodplain wetlands on the property will serve as an important buffer for storm surges, potential sea level rise, and other events anticipated with climate change. It is anticipated that the Phase 1 restoration of the floodplain would increase water capacity by over 90 acre feet (AF) from the current capacity (171 AF) of the existing remnant Devereux Slough south of the project site. If this project does not go forward in a timely fashion, the impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods could increase with sea level rise and the potential for increased intensity of precipitation events.

The District supports this project due to the flood reduction benefits it provides and the ability of a fully connected and functioning floodplain to absorb flood waters and transport sediment appropriately. The District has also committed staff time and expertise to review the project for its flood protection benefits, in addition to providing funding to assist with the production of final grading plans and permits.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
South Coast FZ			\$ 100,000.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00

Narrative:

Partial funding for the District portion of the project was included in the 2014-15 Adopted Budget in the Water Resources Division of the Public Works Department as shown on page D-226 in the budget book. The District's contribution will include providing the necessary hydraulic studies and the final grading plans for the project. The District's remaining costs for the project will be included in next year's budget.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Grant Application Approval for the Urban Streams Restoration Program

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

Attachments:

Resolution “In Matter of Endorsing the Application for an Urban Streams Restoration Program Grant”

Authored by:

Maureen Spencer, Environmental Services Manager, 568-3437