



County of Santa Cruz ⁰³⁷⁷

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 464-2123

ALVIN D. JAMES, DIRECTOR

September 28, 1999

Agenda: October 19, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS WATERSHED CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Dear Members of the Board:

The California State Coastal Conservancy ("the Conservancy") was awarded funds in the amount of \$100,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the preparation of a wetland resource enhancement plan for the Watsonville Sloughs Watershed. The Conservancy accepted these funds, matched them with an additional \$100,000 from their Habitat Conservation Fund and authorized disbursement of the funds, totaling \$200,000, to the County of Santa Cruz as lead local agency for the preparation of the plan.

Background

The Watsonville Sloughs System consists of a remnant 800 acre complex of primarily freshwater wetlands consisting of six major branches: Watsonville Slough, Harkins Slough, Hanson Slough, Struve Slough, West Branch of Struve Slough and Gallighan Slough. The sloughs receive runoff from a 13,000 acre watershed area which includes a mix of urban, industrial, rural residential, agricultural and open space areas. As the largest remaining freshwater wetland on the Central Coast, with its large diversity of habitats and location on the avian Pacific Coast flyway, it is a tremendously important environmental resource.

In 1996, your Board and the City of Watsonville accepted the Water Resources Management Plan for the Watsonville Sloughs System, as prepared by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) using federal Clean Water Act 205(j) funds. In addition, your Board directed staff to continue monitoring water quality within the sloughs in cooperation with the City of Watsonville, to pursue implementation of a watershed stewardship program and to continue to actively participate in future Watsonville Sloughs Water Quality meetings and other related programs.

Analyses of water samples collected before and after completion of the ^{0.37} **AMBAG Water** Resources Management Plan detected a number of pesticides and trace metals in the water column at concentrations greater than or equal to concentrations previously shown to be toxic to resident aquatic organisms. Previous water quality studies by the California State Mussel Watch program, using clams transplanted into waters of the sloughs, measured numerous pesticides at tissue concentrations greater than those seen in 95% of their samples collected statewide over the past 20 years.

The **AMBAG Water** Resources Management Plan identified a variety of measures for improving the quality of water entering the sloughs and Pajaro River Estuary. Recommended management strategies were focused on controlling upstream non-point source pollution and creating mechanisms for filtering urban and agricultural runoff. While the plan proposed creation of wetland buffers and modifications to increase the filtering capacity of existing wetlands, it's scope did not permit a full analysis of how these activities fit into broader community goals for wetlands in the watershed. Also, this Plan did not investigate the restoration of the sloughs for such benefits as wildlife habitat, flood control, or assess the potential for enhancing or protecting the surrounding uplands. In addition, many grant agencies and foundations are reluctant to fund conservation projects in the absence of a comprehensive resource protection strategy. This proposed project would address these issues.

County participation in the ongoing Watsonville Sloughs Water Quality meetings has led to some positive results. First of all, Planning Department staff in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist were successful in their efforts to attain designation of the Watsonville Sloughs System as a geographic priority area for the purpose of securing funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which provides up to 70 % in cost-sharing assistance to farmers willing to invest in soil conservation practices. The USDA allocated **EQIP** funds for the Watsonville Sloughs over a period of five years beginning with the federal fiscal year of 1997/98. Additionally, the State Coastal Conservancy, with assistance from Planning Department staff, applied to the U.S. EPA for a Wetlands Program Development Grant and received funding in the amount of \$100,000. The Coastal Conservancy matched this with another \$100,000 from their Habitat Conservation Fund and \$25,000 of in-kind services.

Project Description

The proposed project is the development of a comprehensive resource assessment and enhancement plan for the Watsonville Sloughs Watershed. The objectives of the plan are to: characterize the existing biological and physical resources of the sloughs and surrounding uplands; analyze the relationship between the resources and land uses in the watershed; describe site-specific opportunities for enhancement and protection that recognize existing land use constraints; and produce a plan that has community support and that provides information needed for support by funding agencies. The plan will identify specific measures for resource enhancement and protection which, where possible, will be designed to confer both ecological benefits and improvements to conditions such as those associated

with water supply, flood control and agricultural drainage. It is proposed that the Santa Cruz County Planning Department act as local lead agency for the management of a consultant contract for preparation of the plan and for actively soliciting local community participation throughout the process. This effort will build on the foundation of cooperative relationships already developed among citizen groups, local jurisdictions and agencies as a result of the water quality planning efforts undertaken in the watershed over the recent years. The timing is especially fortuitous because of the recent award of a Packard Foundation Grant to the Santa Cruz County and Monterey County Resource Conservation Districts for a three-year project which will allow for the continuation and expansion of the ongoing, successful community-based erosion control program in the Elkhorn Slough watershed and the initiation of a similar program in the Watsonville Sloughs watershed. The Packard Foundation grant will fund a full time watershed coordinator, to be contracted through the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, for specific assignment to the Watsonville Sloughs and a Natural Resources Engineering Technician, contracted through the Natural Resource Conservation Service, with duties in both the Watsonville Sloughs and Elkhorn Slough Watersheds. The Packard Foundation grant also supplies funding for exotic plant removal and native habitat restoration.

In order to complete acceptance of the grant, your Board must take several actions:

- Adopt a resolution accepting the terms of the grant (Attachment 1);
- Approve the grant agreement (Attachment 2), and;
- Adopt a resolution accepting and appropriating \$50,000 in unanticipated revenue in the Flood Control and Water Conservation budget since only \$150,000 of the \$200,000 grant amount was included in the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 District budget (Attachment 3), and;
- Adopt a resolution accepting and appropriating \$13,260 in the Planning budget, representing GIS service charges to the Flood Control and Water Conservation District for grant related work (Attachment 4).

The grant contract with the State Coastal Conservancy is included for your information as Attachment 2. A listing of the tasks required of County staff for project management and administration and Geographic Information Services data development and analysis and the costs of the proposed project are also included for your information as Attachment 5. A consultant services contract for the preparation of the plan will be brought to your Board for approval at a later date.

Recommendations

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board take the following actions:

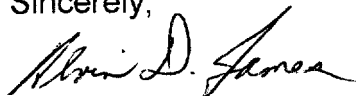
- (1) Adopt the attached resolution accepting a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy in the amount of \$200,000 for preparation of a resource assessment and conservation plan for the Watsonville Sloughs Watershed; and

(2) Approve the attached grant agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy and authorize the Planning Director to execute the agreement on behalf of the County and;

(3) Adopt the attached resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$50,000 from the State Coastal Conservancy into the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District budget; and

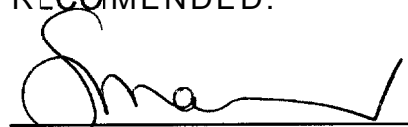
(4) Adopt the attached resolution accepting and appropriating unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$13,260 from the Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District into the Planning Department Geographic Information Services budget.

Sincerely,



ALVIN D. JAMES
Planning Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Attachments: 1) Proposed Resolution Accepting Grant Agreement
 2) Grant Agreement (ADM-29)
 3) Proposed Resolution Accepting and Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue
 (AU D-60)
 4) Proposed Resolution Accepting and Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue
 (AUD-60)
 5) Summary of Proposed Tasks and Costs

cc: State Coastal Conservancy
 City of Watsonville
 Watsonville Wetlands Watch

ADJ/DB:714

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

0381

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following Resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FROM THE STATE
COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS RELATED TO
PREPARATION OF A RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT
PLAN FOR THE WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS WATERSHED

WHEREAS, THE State Coastal Conservancy is offering a grant award in the amount of \$200,000 for the reimbursement of costs incurred by Santa Cruz County for the preparation of a resource assessment and conservation and enhancement plan for the Watsonville Sloughs Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the plan are to: characterize the existing biological and physical resources of the sloughs and surrounding uplands; analyze the relationship between the resources and land uses in the watershed; describe site-specific opportunities for enhancement and protection that recognize existing land use constraints; and produce a plan that has community support and that provides information needed for support by funding agencies; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz is willing to enter into the grant agreement with the State of California;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by adoption of this resolution hereby agrees to the terms and conditions set forth in the grant agreement and authorizes the Director of the Planning Department as agent of the County to **execute** and submit all documents, including, **but** not limited to agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

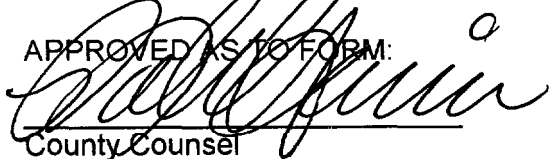
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this day of , 199 , by the following vote:

- AYES: SUPERVISORS
- NOES: SUPERVISORS
- ABSENT: SUPERVISORS
- ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



County Counsel

Distribution: County Counsel, County Administrative Office, Auditor-Controller, Coastal Conservancy

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT

ATTACHMENT 2

0382

TO: Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

FROM: Planning (Dept.)
Romy McAllen (Signature) 9/24/99 (Date)

The Board of Supervisors is hereby requested to approve the attached agreement and authorize the execution of the same.

- Said agreement is between the Santa Cruz County Planning Department (Agency) and State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA 946x2-2530 (Name & Address)
- The agreement will provide funds for the reimbursement of costs incurred for the preparation of a resource assessment and conservation and enhancement plan for the Watsonville Sloughs watershed.
- The agreement is needed to allow the County to accept these funds.
- Period of the agreement is from to October 19, 1999 June 30, 2000
- Anticipated ~~cost~~ revenue is \$ 200,000. (Fixed amount, Monthly rate, Not to exceed)
- Remarks: To be placed on continuing agreements list for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

7. ~~Appropriations are~~ Revenue is budgeted in 135462 (Index#) 0894 (Subject)

NOTE: IF APPROPRIATIONS ARE INSUFFICIENT, ATTACH COMPLETED FORM AUD-74

Appropriations are available and have been encumbered. Contract No. R-715 Date 10/5/99
are not available and will be encumbered. By Ronald J. Dillon Deputy.
n/a GARY A. KNUTSON, Auditor - Controller

Proposal reviewed and approved. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the agreement and authorize the Planning Director to execute the same on behalf of the County of Santa Cruz (Agency).
County Administrative Officer

Remarks: EA (Analyst) By [Signature] Date 10/7/99

Agreement approved as to form. Date _____

- Distribution:
- Bd. of Supv. - White
 - Auditor-Controller - Blue
 - County Counsel - ~~Blue~~
 - Co. Admin. Officer - Canary
 - Auditor-Controller - Pink
 - Originating Dept. - Goldenrod

*To Orig. Dept. if rejected.
41
AD-29 (6/95)

State of California)
County of Santa Cruz) ss
I _____ ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz.
State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing request for approval of agreement was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer by an order duly entered in the minutes of said Board on _____ 19 _____.
County Administrative Officer
By _____ Deputy Clerk

*ON File
with Clerk*

**STANDARD AGREEMENT . APPROVED BY THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

CONTRACT NUMBER 99-008	AM. NO. 0383
TAXPAYERS FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 19 _____
in the State of California, by and between State of California, through its duly elected or appointed, qualified and acting

TITLE OF OFFICER ACTING FOR STATE Executive Officer	AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy	, hereafter called the State, and
CONTRACTOR'S NAME Santa Cruz County		, hereafter called the Contractor.

WITNESSETH: That the Contractor for and in consideration of the covenants, conditions, agreements, and stipulations of the State hereinafter expressed, does hereby agree to furnish to the State services and materials as follows: (Set forth service to be rendered by Contractor, amount to be paid Contractor, time for performance or completion, and attach plans and specifications, if any.)

SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Chapter 6 of Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, the State Coastal Conservancy ("the Conservancy") hereby grants to the County of Santa Cruz, ("the grantee") a sum not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$ 200,000), subject to the terms and conditions of this agreement. These funds shall be used by the grantee to prepare an enhancement plan ("the project") for the Watsonville Slough System Watershed, shown on Exhibit A, which is incorporated by reference and attached.

(Continued on following pages)

CONTINUED ON _____ SHEETS, EACH BEARING NAME OF CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACT NUMBER.

The provisions on the reverse side hereof constitute a part of this agreement.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this agreement has been executed by the parties hereto, upon the date first above written.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA	CONTRACTOR
AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy	CONTRACTOR (If other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership, etc.) Santa Cruz County
BY (AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE) >	BY (AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE) >
PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING William Ahern	PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Alvin James, Planning Director
TITLE Executive Officer	ADDRESS 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

AMOUNT ENCUMBERED BY THIS DOCUMENT \$ 200,000.00	PROGRAM/CATEGORY (CODE AND TITLE) Capital Outlay	FUND TITLE HCF & Federal Trust
PRIOR AMOUNT ENCUMBERED FOR THIS CONTRACT \$ 0	(OPTIONAL USE) Watsonville Sloughs Watershed Plan	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCUMBERED TO DATE \$ 200,000.00	ITEM	CHAPTER STATUTE FISCAL YEAR
	3760-301-0262(1)=\$100,000.00	324 1998 98/99
	3760-301-0890(1)=\$100,000.00	324 1998 98/99
	OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE (CODE AND TITLE) Enhancement	

Department of General Services
Use Only

I Certify that I hereby grant agreement/
I am exempt from
department of General Services approval.

I hereby certify upon my own personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for the period and purpose of the expenditure stated above.

SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER >	T.B.A. NO.	B.R. NO.
	DATE	