
R-22-17
Meeting 21-02
January 27, 2022

CONSENT ITEM #C3

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Authorize Grant Application to the Department of Water Resources for Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan and Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Agreement and any Amendments Thereto for the Water Resources Element of the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan Project

REVENUE/COST

There is no cost for the grant award. If awarded, grant funds would be allocated to the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Water Resource (DWR) Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program supports local agency efforts to prepare for flooding by providing financial assistance for flood risk reduction activities related to stormwater flooding, mudslides, and flash floods. The program was established in 2019 by the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom through Assembly Bill 74, which also authorized the use of funds from Proposition 68: The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Fund Act of 2018. \$50.4 million is currently available through the program, with approximately \$5 million reserved for planning and monitoring projects.

DISCUSSION

Staff anticipates submitting a grant application to DWR for the Water Resources Element of the larger Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan (CVCAMP). \$550,000 in planning and monitoring funds would be requested from DWR and go toward completion of the Water Resources Element of CVCAMP, which will evaluate the benefits and costs of multi-benefit restoration concepts for the Fisher Creek floodplain in Coyote Valley. Concepts will be evaluated by a multicriteria decision support framework including expected change in downstream flood risk, fluvial processes, ecological function, carbon sequestration, cost, compatibility with land uses, and robust community engagement. Surface water and groundwater models will be used to estimate how actions will change downstream flood risk, support the Laguna Seca wetland, aquifer recharge potential, and water quality. If awarded, DWR grant funds will reduce the amount of Measure T funds the Authority allocates to the CVCAMP for these tasks. Staff expects work associated with this grant to be completed via Authority-issued work orders with the team led by SWCA Environmental Consultants, who were awarded the CVCAMP's professional services contract by the Board of Directors in September 2021. Work orders will only be authorized as funds are available through Board-authorized fiscal year budget allocations and acceptance of outside funding sources (grants, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board authorize a resolution for the submittal of application for the Floodplain Management, Protection, and Risk Awareness Grant Program for the Water Resources Element of the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement and any amendments thereto for the Water Resources Element of the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan Project.

Prepared by:
Nicholas Perry

Attachment(s): Resolution 22-13 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Authorizing a Proposal for Funding from the Department of Water Resources and Designating a Representative to Execute the Agreement and any Amendments Thereto, for the Water Resources Element of the Coyote Valley Conservation Areas Master Plan project.

Exhibit C – Department of Water Resources Grant Agreement Template