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Deputy Director, CDPD***Jeff Sharp***Watershed Coordinator
Planner III, CDPD*

10/10/06

Napa County Board of Supervisors
1195 Third Street, Suite 310
Napa CA 94559**Re: Recommendation of Support for the Napa River Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan**

Chairman Dodd and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

In its role as an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors on matters relating to watershed coordination, restoration, management and monitoring, the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board, recommends support of the Napa River Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan (Plan).

By request from the Department of Public Works, the WICC Board considered the Plan at its September 28, 2006 meeting, at which time Public Works staff and project proponents presented an overview of the proposed project. Sponsors of the Plan are seeking County Flood Protection and Watershed Improvement (Measure A) Funds to help cover costs associated with the project.

The project calls for a detailed, community-based plan to address a 10-mile reach of the Napa River (from Oakville Cross Rd. to Oak Knoll Ave.). The project scope includes the assessment, inventory and evaluation of many aspects of the river's function, including hydrology, geomorphology, geology, riparian and aquatic biology, hydraulic engineering and socio-economic factors. Once completed, the Plan will outline long-term strategies to restore the ecological balance of the river, and include suggested measures for implementing various water quality improvements to protect and enhance the river's beneficial uses.

The WICC Board believes the project is consistent with the requirements for use of Measure A funds, recommends Board of Supervisors support of the Plan and offers the following recommendations:

- Require the hydraulic modeling data and analysis be presented to the County in a format that will inform the County's existing hydrology models,

- Ensure the Plan's assessment and inventory data be provided to the WICC, and
- Support the request for \$190,000 in Measure A funding in favor of the Plan's development (Note: the original funding request has been reduced by \$40,000 as a task has been removed from the project scope, which may be made available for separate consideration at a future date by the Board).

The WICC Board requests the Board of Supervisors' consideration of the above recommendations, and believes that the Napa River Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan will support the WICC's mission and strategic plan actions to guide and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands, by coordinating and facilitating collaborative partnerships among the individuals, agencies, and organizations involved in improving watershed health, supporting watershed research activities, and providing watershed information and education.

Should you have any questions about the WICC Board's recommendations, please feel free to contact me, or Patrick Lowe, CDPD Deputy Director and Secretary to the WICC Board.



Charles Slutzkin
Chair,
Watershed Information Center and Conservancy Board
of Napa County

Nancy Watt, County Executive Officer
Robert Peterson, Director of Public Works
Rick Thomasser, Watersheds Operations Manager
WICC Board, via Jeff Sharp, Planner, CDPD