



Agenda Date: 2/8/2005
Agenda Placement: 6I

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Cathy Gruenhagen for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning

REPORT BY: Jeff Sharp, Planner III , 259-5936

SUBJECT: Request for approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of a joint grant application by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Napa County Resource Conservation District to the California Agriculture Water Quality Program

RECOMMENDATION

Watershed Information Center and Conservancy Board request approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of a joint grant application submitted by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and Napa County Resource Conservation District to the California Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program to fund the development of a three-year project to develop a framework for identifying opportunities to solve management challenges related to improving the water quality of the Napa River .

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 18, 2004, the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board of Napa County, an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors, recommended County support of a grant application to fund the development of a three-year project designed to develop a framework for identifying opportunities to solve management challenges related to improving the water quality of the Napa River. The grant proposal was prepared by the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) and the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and submitted to the California Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program.

The goals and objectives presented in the joint SFEI and RCD proposal are well aligned with the mission of the WICC, which is to guide and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed. The proposed work plan supports the County's efforts to foster watershed-based assessments that will lead to improved land use practices and ultimately the de-listing of the Napa River as an impaired water body.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Statutory Exemption. Feasibility and Planning Studies involving only feasibility or planning for possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. [See Title 14. California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3. Guidelines For the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Article 18. Statutory Exemptions, CCR 15262].

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The grant funding would be used to conduct a watershed-based approach to better define and identify sources and relationships between factors limiting beneficial uses of the Napa River. The proposed work plan will identify, in a science-based implementation plan, the types of management options and locations where they can provide the greatest benefit, and encourage implementation of identified management options through targeted outreach and education of affected landowners.

The project objectives include:

- | identifying the sources of impairment factors and relationships between them,
- | identifying stream reaches along the main-stem and major tributaries where changes in current agricultural management practices can have the greatest multiple benefits,
- | testing current ideas as to which suite of management practices may most affect sediment supply, transport, and deposition and beneficial use attainment,
- | increasing grower understanding about the interactions among impairment factors,
- | expanding regular grower forums, and
- | targeting landowners in priority areas to assist them in the preparation of specific implementation plans and monitoring programs.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . AWQGPSupportLetter2

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Michael Stoltz