



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

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 the State Coastal Conservancy's grant application submitted to the California Bay-Delta Authority for monitoring restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds.

RECOMMENDATION

Watershed Information Center and Conservancy Board request approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of the State Coastal Conservancy's grant application to the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program to fund lower Napa River watershed monitoring associated with the Napa-Sonoma Salt Pond restoration.

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 watershed monitoring in the lower Napa River associated with the Napa-Sonoma Salt Pond restoration efforts. The grant was prepared by the State Coastal Conservancy and submitted to the California Bay-Delta Authority Ecosystem Restoration Program.

The goals and objectives presented in the Coastal Conservancy's proposal are supportive of the mission of the WICC, which is to guide and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watersheds. The monitoring program proposed in the grant will enhance the overall understanding of local tidal wetland restoration and its effects on other restoration projects in the lower Napa River basin.

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 monitoring program proposed in the Coastal Conservancy's grant application will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process and the effect of a large-scale restoration project on other projects, as well as the lower Napa River basin. The grant proposes continued monitoring "after" construction, as well as pre- and post-construction monitoring of selected sites downstream, adjacent, and upstream of the restoration area, to examine effects on hydrology, fish and avian communities in the ecosystem.

The proposal includes a baseline-monitoring phase that complements existing information and a comprehensive post-construction monitoring element of the entire area in 2007 and 2008. CALFED has previously recognized the value of this project by generously providing \$4.5 million for design, construction, and monitoring for the 2002 tidal restoration component of the project. The grant proposal further leverages these funds and builds upon previous monitoring efforts conducted by USGS and others in the same area to gain a better understanding of the complexity and inherent environmental benefits of tidal wetland restoration.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Napa Salt Pond Monitoring Support Letter 2

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Michael Stoltz