



Agenda Date: 3/14/2006  
Agenda Placement: 6D

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** 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 grant application by the Resource Conservation District to the CALFED Watershed Program and authorize WICC Board participation in grant activities.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests the following actions relating to the Water for Fish and Farms (WFF) grant application submitted by the Napa County Resource Conservation District to the CALFED Watershed Program:

1. Approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of the WFF grant application; and
2. Approval of and authorization for the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) Board to participate in WFF grant related activities.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On January 26, 2006, the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) Board of Napa County, an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors, unanimously recommended County support of a grant application to fund the installation and operation of telemetric streamgaging stations, dissemination of stream flow information to land/water managers and running hydrologic modeling. The WICC Board also requested County authorization for the WICC Board to participate in the grant's activities, including the of development and implementation of a community outreach program, participation in public workshops on water use, and hosting of real-time stream flow information on the WICC website.

The grant proposal, entitled Water for Fish and Farms (WFF) was prepared by the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) in partnership with the Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) Inc. and Moore, Iacofano, Goltsman (MIG) Inc., and will be submitted to the CALFED Watershed Program.

The goals in the grant proposal are well aligned with the mission of the WICC, which is to educate and support the community in its efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands. The proposed work plan supports efforts to improve the timing of water withdrawals in select tributaries of the Napa River to benefit

steelhead and salmon without negatively impacting the beneficial uses of water, and supports a greater scientific understanding about the relationships between water use and stream flows.

### **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 install and operate telemetric streamgaging stations, disseminate stream flow and water use information to land/water managers, and conduct hydrologic modeling using the improved streamgaging information.

The goals of the proposal are to improve the timing of water withdrawals in selected tributaries of the Napa River to benefit steelhead and/or Chinook salmon without negatively impacting water users and to provide greater scientific understanding about the relationships between water use and stream flow. Information collected through the grant program will improve the ability of local land and water management practitioners to make informed decisions about the timing and use of water diverted from streams that support steelhead and/or Chinook salmon through formation and coordination of a technical and community advisory committee; installation and operation of real-time telemetric streamgaging stations in selected tributaries of the Napa River; information dissemination to land/water management practitioners and others; and use of hydrologic modeling to test hypotheses regarding stream flow and water use.

The grant work program will utilize scientific protocols within the context of on-going local stakeholder processes to perform monitoring, outreach and hypothesis testing objectives. Telemetric streamgaging stations installed and operated through the grant will offer real-time stream flow information to water users via the telephone and/or Internet and will complement a network of existing telemetric streamgages currently operated by the Napa County Resource Conservation District in five tributary watersheds. Hydrologic modeling efforts will build upon and expand recent baseline hydrologic modeling assessments completed by Napa County and will increase local capacity to operate and refine the baseline model into the future. The grant program will also integrate the findings from an analysis of steelhead bioenergetics (available in winter 2006) with the professional judgment of local fisheries biologists and the practical resource needs of water users in the form of a technical and community advisory committee, which will help develop and carry-out an effective outreach and evaluation program.

The WICC Board unanimously voiced support for the WFF proposal at their January 26, 2006 meeting, and recommended that the County Board of Supervisors offer their support as well. Additionally, the WICC Board is seeking Board of supervisor approval and authorization to participate in the WFF, should the grant be awarded. WICC Board participation in the WFF would consist of the following:

- | Participate in the technical and community advisory committee through the involvement of individual WICC Board members and members of the WICC's Technical Advisory Committee.
- | Contribute and facilitate enhancement of the WICC WebCenter to provide "real-time" stream flow data.
- | Review hydrologic modeling efforts.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . WICC Board Recommendation and Request

B . Draft County Support Letter

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey