



Agenda Date: 6/6/2006  
Agenda Placement: 6P

## 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 the Napa County Resource Conservation District's grant proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board for Napa River monitoring.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter in support of the Napa County Resource Conservation District's grant application to the State Water Resources Control Board to collect current, statistically valid data on steelhead and salmon populations and sediment in the Napa River.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On May 25, 2006, 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 Napa County Resource Conservation District's grant application to the State Water Resources Control Board for Napa River monitoring designed to evaluate progress toward achieving suggested targets in the proposed Napa River TMDL and ultimately informing the de-listing the Napa River.

The proposed monitoring program will provide information that will allow for effectively evaluating cause-and-effect linkages among salmonid population dynamics and several of the identified stressors including sediment delivery, flow and physical habitat conditions, and aquatic ecosystem health.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Not A Project Under CEQA [See Guidelines For the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, 14 CCR, Article 20, Sec.15378].

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

The proposed monitoring program will assess salmonid populations and instream sediment levels in the Napa River basin. The program directly addresses the suggested recommendations outlined the Draft Napa River Sediment TMDL to collect current, statistically valid data on steelhead and salmon populations and sediment. The effort will provide critical information to local, state and federal agencies, which will be needed to guide adaptive updates to the proposed sediment TMDL implementation plan and ultimately inform the de-listing of the Napa River.

There has been a long-term decline in salmon and steelhead populations in the Napa River basin, but very little quantitative information has been or is being collected to assess this trend. A few pilot studies have been conducted to examine the relationship of sediment pollution and fisheries declines, but more extensive efforts are needed. The proposed project will implement a comprehensive monitoring program to collect scientifically defensible data on the current status of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) populations and relate that information to data collected on sediment and other factors which may influence salmonid populations. The project will provide information that will allow for evaluating cause-and-effect linkages among salmonid population dynamics and several identified stressors including sediment delivery, flow and physical habitat conditions, and aquatic ecosystem health. The results of the program will be used to generate recommendations for watershed and river riparian management (e.g., beneficial management practices) and restoration (e.g., a prioritized list of restoration strategies and actions most likely to improve river ecosystem health and/or maintain or restore species of concern). With this monitoring focus, we will be able to rapidly evaluate the effectiveness of a variety of management practices implemented to restore fisheries populations, reduce sediment loads, and progress toward attainment of the TMDL.

On May 25, 2006, 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 Napa County Resource Conservation District's (RCD's) proposal to the State Water Resources Control Board for the monitoring program.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . Letter of Support
- B . Monitoring Program Summary

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey