



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/6/2017  
Agenda Placement: 10A

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phillip Miller for Steven Lederer - Director of Public Works  
Public Works

**REPORT BY:** Christopher Silke, Engineering Manager - 707-299-1755

**SUBJECT:** Measure A Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Project Proposal Award Recommendations

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Public Works requests direction to proceed with the following proposed Measure A Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Program projects, sponsors and respective budget awards:

1. Upper Hunting Creek Watershed Restoration, UC Davis McLaughlin Natural Reserve - \$111,000;
2. Pope Creek Weed Management, Napa County RCD - \$121,000; and
3. Oat Hill Mine Road Flood and Erosion Control Improvement Project, Team of Tuleyome, McCord Environmental and Napa County RCD - \$230,500.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A Project Grant Program and Guidelines solicitation package was released in November 2016 to the public and Lake Berryessa watershed stakeholders. Four (4) watershed project proposals were received on or before the program funding application deadline of December 30, 2016. The Grant Advisory Committee consisting of two (2) Napa County staff, one (1) Finance Oversight Committee designee, one (1) Technical Advisory Panel delegate and one (1) member at-large residing at Lake Berryessa evaluated the proposals and held interviews for all of the proponents. Advisory Committee participants at the interview session voted to recommend Funding Agreements with three of the four project applicants. The three project grant award nominees agreed to budgetary revisions that conform with administrative reimbursement limits established within the program guidelines. An unsuccessful applicant was encouraged to reapply in future funding rounds with a greater emphasis on erosion and sediment control in their proposed scope of work.

If the Board agrees with the recommendation, the projects will be presented to the Flood Authority for funding. Then the Memoranda of Understanding would be brought to the Board for final approval.

**PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS**

1. Staff reports.
2. Public comments.
3. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	County unincorporated area Measure "A" funds
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	The project activities proposed for funding obligation are the types authorized within the County Unincorporated designated areas under Measure A Ordinance. Oat Hill Mine Road Flood and Erosion Control Improvements project will commit \$230,500 of Measure A funds towards planning, engineering and implementation of stormwater runoff problematic catchments at twenty five (25) drainage crossings along a three (3) mile section of the gravel road. Sediment load from intermittent seasonal creeks passes by legacy mercury mines. Lake Berryessa is named on the List of Mercury Impaired Waters by California Department of Water Resources. Many exotic plant, shrub and tree species are taking over Lake Berryessa habitat with scientifically confirmed negative hydrologic consequences. Pope Creek Weed Management project aims to thwart off the progression of tamarisk, Himalayan blackberry, tree-of-heaven and others through multiple control techniques. Measure A will fund the assessment, inventory, planning and environmental permitting phases within a 2.7 mile reach of Pope Creek through a budget contribution of \$121,000. Upper Hunting Creek Erosion Control, Road Remediation and Serpentine Meadow Restoration Project will arrest erosion originating at abandoned roads and dilapidated drainage structures. A commitment of \$111,000 from Measure A appropriations will supplement the efforts of conservation crews performing hand work to stabilize the roadways and storm water conveyances over a two year period.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	Grant funds awarded will be spent in FY 2018 in accordance with the budget for Measure "A" projects. Unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year may be rolled forward to the next fiscal year.
Consequences if not approved:	Sediment loads into the northwestern Lake Berryessa watershed subregion will remain unmitigated during intense storms, Invasive plant species that are expanding their infestation over native growth in riparian zones will continue to degradate the hydrologic characteristics. Water quality in tributaries feeding into Lake Berryessa will conceivably worsen as fine soils, toxic metals and nutrients flush into creek systems and ultimately the lake.
Additional Information:	If the Board approves the recommended grant awards, the next amendment of

the County Measure "A" funding agreement will include budgetary funding for these projects.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

### **Measure "A" Background**

In March 1998, voters approved a half cent sales tax increase for flood control purposes known as Measure "A". The County and each City and Town are entitled to the proceeds from Measure "A" generated within their political boundaries for projects that were specified in the ballot measure. For the County, the Measure reads:

#### **Unincorporated Areas of Napa County:**

1. County unincorporated area flood damage reduction projects including elevating/relocating structures, including bridges, in the floodway and floodplain; and
2. Agricultural watershed and stormwater runoff management improvements planned jointly by the agricultural industry, the County, the Napa County Resource Conservation District and the Department of Fish and Game, including projects which will:
  - a. Reduce the amount of storm runoff and sediment in the Napa River System from agricultural lands; and
  - b. Increase flood storage of the River system by the setback of active land uses from river and tributary banks.

#### **Community of Angwin/Deer Park:**

1. Stabilization and enhancement of existing water reservoirs which shall be for the purpose of flood protection and water reliability; and
2. Stabilize water quality.

#### **Evaluation of Types of Projects and Benefits**

Measure "A" does not identify specific projects for the County unincorporated area (including the Angwin/Deer Park and Berryessa sub areas), but rather specifies that projects must meet the above stated objectives. In January 2008, staff presented and received approval from the Board on the Measure "A" Project Benefits and Priorities Matrix, which outlines the types of projects and benefits that meet the required Measure "A" objectives. The matrix also provides a relative priority ranking of projects based upon the ability of a particular project to meet the Measure "A" objectives, while also considering the overall benefit to the public by applying the following criteria, as follows in order of relative importance:

1. Projects which provide protection for health and safety;
2. Projects which provide protection against possible future damage to property and/or the environment or protects natural resources; and

3. Projects which enhance the environment.

The approved criteria are consistent with the intent of the measure and with previous direction from the Board. The evaluation of projects also considers the ability of Measure "A" funds to leverage other sources of funding for projects which meet the Measure "A" objectives. In this regard, project opportunities that come forward with supplemental funding from grants or from benefiting property owners, that only need to be matched with Measure "A", support a previously stated Board objective of stretching the Measure "A" dollars. Similarly, if other sources of funds are readily available for certain project types, this may factor into the relative importance of using Measure "A" funds for a particular activity.

### **Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Program**

Measure "A" guidelines call for 7% of the total revenues collected from the unincorporated area to be spent on projects in the Lake Berryessa Watershed. On April 19, 2016 the Board approved the Measure "A" Lake Berryessa Watershed Improvement Grant Guidelines to seek eligible projects through a multi-year initiative seeking appropriations through the expiration of the Measure A Ordinance on June 30, 2018. Projects must demonstrate one or more watershed benefit(s) to Lake Berryessa and/or tributaries within the Putah Creek / Suisun Creek watershed boundaries. Short-list of quantitative benefits include: 1) Agricultural watershed improvements, 2) Storm water runoff management, 3) Invasive species control, 4) Natural wetland buffer creation, 5) Water quality restoration, and 6) Watershed protection activities.

An informal Advisory Committee was under recruitment in the summer through early fall 2016. The Finance Oversight Committee and Technical Advisory Panel for Measure A each selected a representative to serve on their behalf at a regular business meeting. A member of the public with residence and familiar knowledge of the issues facing Lake Berryessa was sought through public advertisement. One public candidate filed an application and was invited to participate in the proceedings. One staff member from the Napa County Department of Public Works and one staff member representing the Flood Authority were appointed to oversee Committee deliberations throughout the project solicitation process.

Four (4) Watershed Improvement Project applications were filed in response to the grant program solicitation. The primary organization, project title and proposed budget were as follows:

1. UC Davis McLaughlin Natural Reserve, "Erosion Control, Road Remediation and Serpentine Meadow Restoration in the Upper Hunting Creek", \$235,389.
2. Napa County Resource Conservation District, "Pope Creek Weed Management", \$121,000.
3. Tuleyome, Inc., "Oat Hill Mine Road Flood and Erosion Control Improvements Project", \$309,098.
4. Blue Ridge-Berryessa Partnership / Trust for Conservation Innovation, "Restoring the Lake Berryessa Wildlife Area", \$180,328.

Advisory Committee members reviewed and evaluated each proposal on criteria stated in the funding program guidelines. A decision was reached by the Committee to arrange interviews of all project proponents during the initial deliberations held on January 25, 2017. Interviews were conducted for each proponent on March 28, 2017. Following the project interviews, Committee members arrived at a final determination to recommend funding agreements for three of the four projects. Budgets for two of the three grant award nominees were negotiated lower than originally sought due to a limit on appropriations and necessary adjustments to their reimbursable administrative costs.

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, staff requests Board direction to approach the Flood Authority to request Measure A funding and to draft individual funding agreements (Memorandum of Understanding between the

Board and Project Organization Sponsor) for the project finalists below:

1. UC Davis McLaughlin Natural Reserve, "Erosion Control, Road Remediation and Serpentine Meadow Restoration in the Upper Hunting Creek", \$111,000.
2. Napa County Resource Conservation District, "Pope Creek Weed Management", \$121,000.
3. Tuleyome, Inc., "Oat Hill Mine Road Flood and Erosion Control Improvements Project", \$230,500.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Bret Prebula