



Agenda Date: 8/28/2007
Agenda Placement: 6L

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning

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

SUBJECT: Conservation Development & Planning Director requests Adoption of a Resolution and related actions for submittal of an Application for funding through the federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Conservation, Development and Planning requests the following actions relating to an application to the State of California Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for funding in the amount of \$3,370 per year for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 through Fiscal Year 2009-2010 with possible program extension through Fiscal Year 2010-2011:

1. Authorization for the Director to prepare and submit a funding application to the CIAP; and
2. Adoption of a resolution identifying the Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project as the proposed project for Napa County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Napa County is recognized as a coastal county under the CIAP guidelines and has been allotted approximately \$3,370 per FY 2007 through 2010 under the program. Use of the funds are limited to authorized uses under the State Plan Guidelines and must benefit coastal waters (or waters that flow to the coast) and must advance the state toward meeting the goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan.

Section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 created the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) by amending Section 31 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Under the Act, the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) shall disburse \$250 million for each fiscal year (FY) 2007 through 2010 to eligible producing States and coastal political subdivisions.

In November 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger designated the California Resources Agency as the lead state agency for implementing the federal CIAP in California. As such, the Resources Agency is obligated to work with state agencies and counties in developing a California project and expenditure plan (Plan) that is consistent with Minerals Management Service's CIAP State Guidelines. The California Resources Agency requires a resolution

certifying the approval of a project proposal by the county's governing board prior to project submission to the State for inclusion in California's CIAP Plan. Upon approval of the Plan by the MMS, funds will be dispersed to qualified counties through a non-competitive grant process. On June 8, 2007 the Department received notification of revised CIAP Guidelines.

The proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project not only complies with the State CIAP Guidelines, but also addresses a locally recognized need to support focused watershed monitoring efforts. The goals of the CIAP program are well aligned with the mission of the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board, which is to educate and support the community in its efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands. Additionally the proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project supports a number of priority action items identified in the WICC's Strategic Plan and directly informs monitoring objectives outlined in the WICC's Watershed Monitoring Strategy; which are to characterize watershed conditions and trends using appropriate indicators and to track the success of natural resource protection and restoration efforts, and evaluate the long-term health of Napa County's watershed lands.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board - 29400
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	If approved, Federal funds allocated to Napa County under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) will be available to offset current funding expended under Agreement No. 6854 (JPA) with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to support watershed education services and the ongoing monitoring of Napa River salmon. The Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project goal is to assess both current and historical species abundance and distribution through the use of established protocol survey techniques and genetic analysis. The RCD initiated the monitoring program in 2003. If awarded, funds received through the CIAP will help support continuance of the monitoring effort through FY 2010. In future years, a portion of funds allocated to the RCD JPA that specifically support watershed education services and watershed monitoring may be moved from 29000 (Planing) to 29400 (WICC) to better align and track funding that meets the mission of the WICC Board
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	If awarded the grant will provide \$3,370 through FY 2010-11 to offset costs associated with current watershed monitoring projects conducted by the County.
Consequences if not approved:	Napa County will not receive Federal funding allocated under the CIAP. Without approval, Napa County will not comply with program requirements established by the California Resources Agency, and therefore will not be able to submit a project for inclusion in the State CIAP Plan to receive Federal funds.
Additional Information:	The goals of the CIAP program are aligned with the mission of the Watershed

Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board and the proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project supports a number of priority action items identified in the WICC's Strategic Plan and directly informs monitoring objectives outlined in the WICC's Watershed Monitoring Strategy for Napa County; which are to characterize watershed conditions and trends using appropriate indicators and to track the success of natural resource protection and restoration efforts, and evaluate the long-term health of Napa County's watershed lands.

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

Napa County is recognized as a coastal county under the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) guidelines and has been allotted approximately \$3,370 per FY 2007 through 2010. Use of the funds are limited to authorized uses under the State Plan Guidelines and must benefit coastal waters (or waters that flow to the coast) and must advance the state toward meeting the goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan.

The proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project not only complies with the State CIAP Guidelines, but also addresses a recognized need to support focused watershed monitoring efforts on a local level. The proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project is an ongoing monitoring and research project focused on the Chinook salmon found in the Napa River basin. The project goal is to assess both current and historical species abundance and distribution through the use of established protocol survey techniques and genetic analysis. The Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) initiated the monitoring program in 2003. If awarded funds received through the CIAP will help support continuance of the monitoring effort through FY 2010.

Projects submitted to the CIAP must be consistent with one or more of the CIAP authorized uses, and must advance the state toward meeting the goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Council's Strategic Plan. These goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Council are: Governance, Research and Monitoring, Ocean and Coastal Water Quality, Physical Processes and Habitat, Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems, and Education and Outreach. Per the MMS's CIAP Plan Guidelines, CIAP projects do not need to be undertaken solely in the state's coastal zone, but project benefits should flow to the coastal zone.

Section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has created the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) by amending Section 31 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Under the Act, the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) shall disburse \$250 million for each fiscal year (FY) 2007 through 2010 to eligible producing States and coastal political subdivisions.

In November 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger designated the California Resources Agency as the lead state agency for implementing the federal CIAP in California. As such, the Resources Agency is obligated to work with state agencies and counties in developing a California project and expenditure plan (Plan) that is consistent

with MMS's CIAP State Guidelines. The state is currently planning on producing a four-year CIAP plan.

In its role as lead state agency, the California Resources Agency requires a resolution certifying the approval of a project proposal by the County's governing board prior to project submission to the State for inclusion in the CIAP Plan. Upon approval of the Plan by the MMS, funds will be dispersed to counties in a non-competitive grant process. On June 8, 2007 the Department received notification of revised CIAP Guidelines.

The goals of the CIAP program are also well aligned with the mission of the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board, which is to educate and support the community in its efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands. Additionally the proposed Napa River Salmon Monitoring Project supports a number of priority action items identified in the WICC's Strategic Plan and directly informs monitoring objectives outlined in the WICC's Watershed Monitoring Strategy; which are to characterize watershed conditions and trends using appropriate indicators and to track the success of natural resource protection and restoration efforts, and evaluate the long-term health of Napa County's watershed lands.

Work in preparing this grant application and upfront coordination of partnerships described in the grant is currently funded though under WICC program. At this point in the grant application process there is no fiscal impact to the County. Should the grant be awarded, formal agreements between the State and County will be developed and any fiscal obligations to the County will be disclosed and considered at that time. As currently proposed, the grant utilizes an in-kind match that is already a part of the WICC's function and capacity and little if any cash match is anticipated. Continued funding for the WICC was approved in the current fiscal year 07-08 Budget.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . CIAP Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi