



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works and Parks



Date: February 12, 2013
Board Meeting Date: March 12, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works and Parks

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding for Continuation of the Pilarcitos Creek Restoration Workgroup

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing:

- A) The President of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for continuation of the Pilarcitos Creek Restoration Workgroup for a term of five years from the date of execution by all parties; and
- B) The Deputy County Manager for Community Services or her designee to be the primary County contact for the workgroup.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) managed the development of the 1996 Watershed Restoration Plan for Pilarcitos Creek (Plan) with stakeholder input and assumed responsibility for overseeing implementation of the Plan. The Plan identified five major watershed issues of concern, which included: reduced stream flows; degraded fish habitat; bank erosion and loss of riparian vegetation and habitat; watershed erosion and channel sedimentation; and exotic vegetation.

Recognizing the need for continued coordination of restoration efforts in the watershed, the San Francisco Public Utility Commission obtained FY 2005-06 grant funds from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Pilarcitos Creek Watershed (Pilarcitos IWMP).

On May 15, 2007, your Board adopted Resolution No. 068698, which authorized the County's participation in the Pilarcitos Creek Restoration Workgroup (Workgroup) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated January 25, 2007 establishing the Workgroup. Your Board also designated the Deputy County Manager for

Community Services or her designee to be the primary County contact for the Workgroup. The Workgroup was established to oversee development of the Pilarcitos IWMP and included representatives from federal, state, local, and nonprofit agencies. The RCD has served as the contract manager for the Pilarcitos IWMP.

DISCUSSION:

Members of the Workgroup have been working together since 2007 to develop and implement the Pilarcitos IWMP. The Pilarcitos IWMP was completed in 2008 and was based upon the previously developed Plan. Its purpose is to promote balanced solutions to effectively manage the Pilarcitos Creek watershed that satisfy environmental, public health, domestic water supply, and economic interests. Staff from the Department of Public Works and Parks participated as a member of the Workgroup during the development of the Pilarcitos IWMP and during implementation of priority projects. The projects identified were prioritized individually or collectively to help achieve the following six goals: protect and recover Steelhead trout and other native aquatic and riparian species; enhance stream flows while maintaining yield; manage stream channel corridors to reduce erosion, sedimentation and flood risks; increase native riparian vegetation, maintain good water quality conditions, and promote community and stakeholder collaboration.

The MOU establishing the Workgroup expired on May 31, 2012. The members of the Workgroup collectively decided that it is in the best interest of the stakeholders to continue participation in the implementation phase of the Pilarcitos IWMP as the Workgroup. As such, a new MOU has been developed.

The new MOU retains the primary purposes and operational structure of the original Workgroup. To continue participation in the Workgroup, all agencies must sign the new MOU and establish a primary contact.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and MOU as to form.

Approval of this action contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by collaborating with other stakeholders to promote environmental stewardship and protect and restore natural resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The MOU states that participation in the Workgroup is voluntary. There is no cost associated with signing the MOU other than staff time associated with participating in the Workgroup. There is no dedicated funding for Department of Public Works and Parks staff's participation in the Workgroup. Funding for project implementation will be provided by individual project sponsors.