STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type:	Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title:	Update on Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project Phase 1A Construction, and Review and Refer Contract MA-6356 with O'Connor Environmental Inc.
From:	Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through:	Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date:	September 19, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive update; and Review and refer MA-6356 with O'Connor Environmental Inc. for Lagunitas Creek sediment and streambed monitoring to support WR95-17 compliance and guide ongoing restoration planning in the amount of $154,443

SUMMARY: At the May 21, 2024 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved Contract No. 2022 with Hanford ARC, to begin construction of Phase 1A of the Lagunitas Creek Coho Habitat Enhancement Project. Phase 1A construction activities started in July of 2024 and are continuing through October. Restoration activities include installation of large wood and boulder structures and additions of spawning gravel to support endangered Coho Salmon and freshwater shrimp, and threatened steelhead populations. Staff will provide a project update and overview of the construction schedule.

The District conducted a request for proposals (RFP) in 2020 for sediment and streambed monitoring in accordance with the Lagunitas Creek Stewardship Plan under State Water Board Order WR95-17. The District received four proposals and selected O'Connor Environmental Inc. (OEI) based on cost, qualifications, and previous work history in the watershed. OEI was contracted under agreement MA-5858 for $70,980, which expired in December 2021 and was extended through June 2023. Staff are recommending that OEI's services be retained through a new professional services agreement to continue sediment and streambed monitoring for compliance with Order WR95-17 and to guide ongoing restoration planning and assess effectiveness.

DISCUSSION: In July 2024, following a four-year planning and permitting process, the District broke ground on the first phase (Phase 1A) of the Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project. Phase 1A encompasses three sites (Sites 4, 5, 6) within Samuel P. Taylor State Park, where additions of wood structures and spawning gravel will be made to improve conditions for endangered Coho Salmon and

California freshwater shrimp, and threatened steelhead. Implementation of Phase 1A is being funded primarily through a CDFW grant with internal support from District staff.

Hanford ARC, the District's construction contractor, is currently on-schedule and making measureable progress on all project features. Daily site inspections are being performed by District staff with oversight from the design engineers, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), and construction management provided by Anchor. In-stream construction is scheduled to be completed during the final week of October. Staff will provide an update on the project schedule and all completed and in-progress elements to date.

O'Connor Environmental Inc. (OEI) has been conducting sediment and streambed monitoring in the Lagunitas Creek watershed since 2012. OEI was selected by the District during a request for proposal (RFP) process in 2020 to provide monitoring services in accordance with the Lagunitas Creek Stewardship Plan under State Water Board Order WR95-17. OEI's contract MA-5858 expired in December 2021 and was extended through June 2023. At the request of District Fisheries staff, OEI developed a scope of work and budget to continue Lagunitas Creek streambed and sediment monitoring in Lagunitas Creek through 2026. OEI's sediment and streambed surveys in Lagunitas Creek will be focused in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, where the District is currently implementing restoration work. The primary focus of this two-year monitoring contract is to develop data sets describing streambed conditions related to the District's instream habitat enhancement work in 2024 and 2025. The habitat structures being installed, comprised of large logs and boulders, are expected to affect streambed morphology and sediment dynamics. OEI's monitoring approach is intended to measure and quantify these effects following implementation and provide a baseline dataset for long term comparison.

Streambed and sediment monitoring data will include pre- and post-construction streambed conditions as characterized by sediment facies, spawning gravel size distributions, and volume of large wood material. In addition, streambed scour will be monitored to evaluate the effect of the instream habitat structures on spawning habitat. Large woody material data will be compared to assess attainment of targets set forth in the Lagunitas Creek Sediment TMDL.

Staff recommends that the Watershed Committee review and refer MA-6356 with O'Connor Environmental Inc. for Lagunitas Creek sediment and streambed monitoring, to support WR95-17 compliance and guide ongoing restoration planning, in the amount of to a future regularly scheduled Board meeting for approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Staff has reviewed the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has found that the Project is Statutorily Exempt pursuant to Section 21080.56 of the California Public Resources Code, known as the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP). The Project qualifies for exemption pursuant to Section 21080.56 inasmuch as project is a restoration project for fish and wildlife meeting the conditions of SERP as stated in Section 21080.56.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total cost to complete Phase 1A of the Lagunitas Creek Coho Enhancement Project is estimated at $3,958,000, which includes construction, construction management services, biological compliance, and District labor. The District has secured grants from CDFW, USBR, and DWR to fully fund implementation of Phase 1A in 2024 and Phase 1B in 2025.

The total cost of OEI's proposed streambed and sediment monitoring is $154,443, to be spread across FY25 and FY26. Funding for this contract is allocated in the FY25 Fisheries operations budget and will be included in the FY26 Fisheries operations budget request.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.