

permit applications. To support these efforts the District prepared and circulated two RFP's, one for the Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study and one for Environmental Compliance and Permitting.

The Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study RFP was distributed to three qualified consulting firms. The RFP included three tasks: 1) streamflow monitoring; 2) stream habitat surveys; and 3) biological surveys for salmonids and other special-status species. Staff reviewed the Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study RFP with the Watershed Committee at the October 17, 2024 meeting. The RFP was distributed on September 25, 2024, and one proposal from ESA was received on October 18, 2024. Staff met with ESA on October 22nd to review the study framework, scope and budget. Staff received input from the Watershed Committee regarding the study and in response has integrated temperature monitoring and ecohydrology mapping into the study. ESA's cost proposal for the Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study is \$398,212.

The Project Environmental Compliance and Permitting RFP encompasses preparation of necessary environmental analysis and compliance, including document preparation (California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)), permitting, Endangered Species Act compliance, as well as a robust stakeholder and agency engagement process. Staff reviewed the Environmental Compliance and Permitting RFP with the Operations Committee at the October 18, 2024 meeting. The RFP was distributed on October 4, 2024 and proposals from two firms were received on October 18, 2024. Interviews were carried out the week of October 21, 2024. Based on the proposals and interviews staff identified ESA as the most qualified firm. ESA's cost proposal for the Environmental Compliance and Permitting project is \$1,340,148.

After reviewing the proposals and interviewing consultants, staff is recommending one combined contract with ESA to include both areas of work in the amount of \$1,738,360. ESA's work will be done concurrently with the engineering analysis and design for the project and will aid the District in implementing this high priority project. The Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study will help the District better understand seasonal streamflow patterns and the presence/absence of aquatic species. This information will inform the District environmental analysis and compliance documentation, permit applications and provide critical data to support stakeholder discussions. As such, Staff sees project efficiencies that can be realized through having one firm carry out the work and is recommending that the District execute one professional services agreement with ESA in the amount of \$1,738,360 with a staff requested contingency of \$260,754, for a total not to exceed amount of \$1,999,114.

Budget

Professional Services Agreement Fees: \$1,738,360

Contingency (15%): \$260,754

Total Budget: \$1,999,114

Budget Category: A1A16

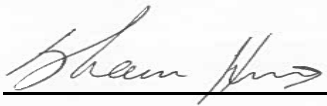

This work is scheduled to take place across Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The total costs for the Nicasio Fisheries Study task is \$398,212 and the Environmental Compliance and Permitting task is \$1,340,148 for a total contract cost of \$1,738,360, with a staff requested contingency of \$260,754, for a total not to exceed amount of \$1,999,114 to be spread across FY25 and FY26. Funding for this contract is identified in the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 under the A1A16 Program Management fund center, under Roadmap Planning and Pre-Design.

Task Description	Budget
Task 1 – Project Management and Coordination: This task includes project management activities including day-to-day administration, progress meetings, and technical reviews throughout the duration of the project.	\$246,369
Task 2 – Environmental Compliance: This task includes preparation of CEQA documents, including EIR project description development, scoping meetings, assessment and delineation reports, AB52 compliance, terrestrial and fishery resources analyses, development of mitigation measures, draft EIR preparation, public review, and final EIR preparation.	\$769,534
Task 3 – Regulatory Agency Permitting: This task includes preparing permit applications, assessments, and coordination for involved agencies, such as US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, Regional Water Quality Control Board	\$232,047
Task 4 – Agency and Stakeholder Engagement: This task includes outreach and coordination with involved agencies and interested stakeholders, including an engagement plan, briefings, and meetings.	\$209,105
Task 5 – Nicasio Creek Fishery Study: This task includes an ecohydrology assessment, salmonid habitat survey, and biological surveys along Nicasio Creek downstream of the dam to the confluence with Lagunitas Creek	\$281,305
Professional Services Agreement Total	\$1,738,360
Contingency (15%)	\$260,754
Total Authorized Amount	\$1,999,114

ATTACHMENT(S): None.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager