



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Grant Program Update
From: Shaun Horne, Watershed Resources Director
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: August 6, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action X Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a staff update on the District’s recent grant activities

SUMMARY: Staff will provide an update on recent grant activities.

DISCUSSION: The District continues to track and apply for state and federal grant funding opportunities as they become available. Staff will provide a detailed presentation of recent grant applications and awards, as well as upcoming funding opportunities. The table below describes the status of grant applications since April 2024 and ongoing grants currently managed.

Summary of Grant Awards and Applications				
Project	Funder	Amount	Status	Date
Forest Health Strategy	USBR Environmental Water Resources Project	\$300,000	Decision Pending	June 2024
One Tam Forest Health Strategy	CalFire	\$3,000,000 (Total award: \$6,966,078)	Awarded	June 2024
Water Supply Planning	USBR WaterSmart Planning & Design	\$400,000	Decision Pending	May 2024
Rain Harvesting Rebates	Marin County (MCSTOPPP)	\$15,032	Awarded	April 2024
AMI Expansion	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	\$1,000,000	Decision Pending	February 2024

One Tam Forest Health Strategy	Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)	\$2,880,000 (Total award: \$6,447,687)	Administering	February 2024
Lagunitas Creek Restoration Phase II	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Fisheries & Restoration (FRGP)	\$600,000	Administering	December 2023
San Geronimo Treatment Plant Clarifiers	CalOES/FEMA	\$22,000,000	Not Awarded	December 2023
Lagunitas Creek Restoration	(CDFW) Prop 1	\$4,600,000	Administering	November 2023
Climate Adaptation Strategies: A Precipitation Modeling Initiative	USBR WaterSmart Energy Efficiency	\$150,628.00	Awarded	October 2023
Lagunitas Creek Restoration Project	USBR Environmental Restoration Project	\$1,400,000	Administering	August 2023
Reservoir Water Quality	CA Division of Boating & Waterways	\$86,800	Administering	July 2023
Lagunitas Creek Gravel Spawning Gravel Improvement Project	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Riverine Stewardship	\$590,000	Administering	June 2023
Desalination Feasibility Study	USBR	\$200,000	Decision Pending	February 2023
Azalea Hill Trail Restoration	California State Parks	\$952,657	Administering	February 2023
Watershed Vegetation Management	Conservation Corp North Bay (CCNB)	\$500,000	Administering	January 2023
Marin City/San Rafael Water Supply Resiliency Project	DWR Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP)	\$6,500,000	Administering	January 2023

Fire Resilience in Mt. Tam Watershed	CCC Forestry Corps	\$374,000	Administering	December 2022
San Geronimo Emergency Generator Project	State Member Request (Levine)	\$1,000,000	Administering	July 2022
Water Conservation	USBR WaterSmart & Energy Efficiency (Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership)	\$722,925	Administering	April 2022
Water Supply Alternatives	DWR Urban and Multi Benefit Drought Relief	\$2,000,000	Administering	March 2022
Forest Health	California Coastal Conservancy	1,088,610	Administering	June 2021
Water Conservation	Prop 1 IRWMP	\$222,477	Administering	June 2020
Water Resources Development Act of 2022				
Regional Water Supply	WRDA	\$28M	Passed/Not Authorized in House/Awaiting Senate Committee Hearing	December 2022

REVIEW OF GRANT FUNDING ACTIVITIES

The District tracks various grant programs and works with industry associations to monitor upcoming grant funding opportunities. District staff work inter-departmentally to evaluate funding opportunities and to pair grant programs with District projects. Recent District grant efforts have resulted in funding for precipitation modeling, additional funding to implement the BIFFIP, as well as to provide rain water barrels to support water conservation. The District currently has pending applications for Forest Health, Water Supply Storage and Design, and AMI expansion in the District's service area. In addition to grant applications, the District has submitted federal earmark requests for Pine Mountain Tunnel Tank Replacement Project and for the Soulajule Pipeline Project.

In June, the District was notified that the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant proposal for the San Geronimo Treatment Plant Clarifiers was not awarded. Staff is now looking into options for advancing this application as part of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as part of the next open round of solicitations. The District is evaluating a grant proposal as part of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR) for Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Phase II implementation. The District is actively working with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to establish funding agreements to support the Wildlife Conservation Board and Cal Fire Forest Health grant awards to support FY 2024/25 BFFIP implementation work on the Watershed.

Water Resources Development Act of 2022

In 2022, the District was written into the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA) for \$28 million for Water Supply Projects in Marin. In March of 2024, the District coordinated a site visit with Congressman Huffman and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff to review the Soulajule Pipeline Project and the USACE Work Plan process for funding WRDA Environmental Infrastructure (EI) projects. In July, the District learned that Marin Water was not included in the final bill voted on by the Appropriations Committee in the House. The District expects to hear a decision from the Senate sometime in August.

Associations

The District utilizes membership in the following industry associations to stay up to date on policy and fundraising opportunities.

- ACWA
- TOGETHER Bay Area (formerly Bay Area Open Space Council)
- One Tam Steering & Funding Committee
- North Bay Watershed Association
- North Bay Water Reuse Program

As member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), District staff serve on a variety of the group's committees. Staff also participate as members of One Tam. The Steering and Funding Committees meet monthly to discuss possible cross jurisdictional grants for projects that benefit Mt. Tamalpais. As a member of TOGETHER Bay Area District staff participate in a Legislative Committee Working Group to help advance funding needs and priorities relating to resilient lands and communities. The District is also a member of the North Bay Water Association and North Bay Water Reuse Program, which have been influential in advancing and securing funding that benefit regional water supply projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.