



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Watershed Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project Phase 1C Construction  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** March 19, 2026



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**TYPE OF ITEM:**                      Approve                      X                      Review and Comment

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and comment on the Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project, Phase 1C Construction bid advertisement and refer to a regularly scheduled Board Meeting for award in May of 2026

**SUMMARY:** In May 2025, the District awarded Contract No. 2043 to Rehak General Engineering (RGE) to construct Phase 1B (Sites 1, 2, 3, 12, and 13) of the Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project. RGE was unable to complete Site 3, and in January 2026 requested that the District terminate their contract and reassign all remaining work. The construction bid advertisement for Phase 1C will include a base bid to complete one site (Site 3) with grant funding from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Construction is planned to occur from August through October 2026. Staff will provide a project update and overview of the Phase 1C bid and construction schedule to the Board.

**DISCUSSION:** Since 2020, the District has collaborated with local partners and stakeholders to design and implement the Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project to benefit endangered coho salmon, threatened steelhead trout, and other native species. In total, the Enhancement Project spans over 4,500 feet of channel at 13 distinct sites, where approximately 270 logs and 12,000 tons of new spawning gravel are being added to restore the ecological health of Lagunitas Creek below Peters Dam.

The Enhancement Project is split into multiple phases to facilitate planning, permitting, and implementation:

- Phase 1A (Sites 4, 5, and 6) - completed in 2024
- Phase 1B (Sites 1, 2, 12, and 13) - completed in 2025
- Phase 1C (Site 3) - originally scoped as part of Phase 1B, construction delayed by contractor, now planned for 2026 under new contract
- Phase 2A (Sites 7 and 8) - final designs and permits underway, funding secured and construction planned for 2027

- Phase 2B (Sites 9, 10, 11) - final designs and permits underway, construction anticipated in 2028 pending grant funding availability

Staff anticipate coming back to the Board in May 2026 to seek authorization to award a contract for construction of Phase 1C (Site 3).

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Staff have 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. Additionally, the District working in collaboration with USBR completed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document and received a notice that required environmental compliance activities have been completed per the terms of the grant agreement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The District has \$1,536,751 in remaining grant funds (CDFW: \$742,801, USBR: \$658,525, DWR: \$135,425) for Phase 1C construction.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.