



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project Update
From: Jonathan Koehler, Acting Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Shaun Horne, General Manager
Meeting Date: October 20, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: Action X Information

RECOMMENDATION: Receive staff update on the current status of the Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project planning and implementation

SUMMARY: Phase 1 of the Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project was recently completed in October 2026. Phase 2 consists of five sites located immediately downstream of Phase 1. The District has secured grant funding to construct two of the five sites (Phase 2A) in 2027. Funding is being sought to complete the remaining three Phase 2 sites in 2028-29.

DISCUSSION: The Lagunitas Creek Habitat Enhancement Project (Enhancement Project) began in 2020 as a collaboration between the District, California State Parks, and the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee. The goal of the Enhancement Project is to benefit endangered Coho Salmon, threatened Steelhead, and endangered California Freshwater Shrimp by installing engineered log habitat structures and spawning gravel to enhance the ecological condition of Lagunitas Creek below Peters Dam.

The Enhancement Project consists of 13 separate sites along a 4.5-mile reach of Lagunitas Creek on District and State Parks' lands. The sites are split across multiple phases to facilitate planning, permitting, and implementation. As of October 2026, the status of these phases is as follows:

- 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) – construction completed October 8, 2026
- Phase 2A (Sites 7 and 8) – funding secured, construction planned for August - October 2027
- Phase 2B (Sites 9, 10, and 11) – funding needed, construction expected 2028-2030

Construction of Phase 1C in 2026 was completed by Hanford Applied Restoration and Conservation (Hanford ARC). Groundbreaking began in early August, and all work was completed by early October.

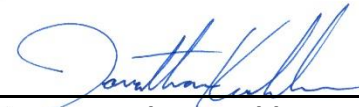
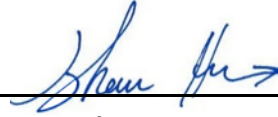
A total of 48 logs and approximately 730 tons of spawning gravel was installed in Lagunitas Creek to improve habitat conditions. Funding for Phase 1C was provided by grants from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

Phase 2 consists of five sites located immediately downstream of Phase 1. The District has secured grant funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Department of Water Resources Riverine Stewardship Grant Program to construct two of the five sites (Phase 2A) in 2027. Funding is being sought to complete the remaining Phase 2 sites in 2028-29.

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. 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: Phase 1C construction in 2026 was fully funded through grants from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Bureau of Reclamation.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	 Jonathan Koehler Acting Watershed Resources Director	 Shaun Horne General Manager