



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors

Title: Amendment No. 2 to Professional Services Agreement with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for the Nicasio Hydrology Study

From: Paul Sellier, Director of Water Resources

Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager

Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Professional Services Agreement No. 6494 with ESA to provide environmental analysis for the long-term maintenance plan and to provide support for integrating the long-term maintenance plan into the Atmospheric River Capture project description for an additional amount not to exceed \$578,732 and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract amendment; and Approve the use of the Capital Reserve to increase budget appropriations in the Water Resources Administration program by \$578,732

SUMMARY: On November 18, 2025, the Board of Directors approved a Professional Services Agreement with ESA in the amount of \$387,685 to review the potential for immediate action for maintenance work in the Nicasio and Halleck Creeks near the District's Nicasio Reservoir and to develop an integrated creek and watershed model. The model allows the District to assess contributors to localized flooding and develop potential management actions to help address these. Amendment No. 1 added design scope services and fees of not to exceed an additional \$354,659 to further refine the model to support the determination of maintenance triggers and thresholds, develop a long-term maintenance plan and provide regulatory permitting support for maintenance work in 2026. Amendment No. 2 will add the necessary environmental analysis and studies to support the development of a proposed long-term maintenance plan and to integrate this plan into the ARC project description for purposes of conducting analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act. These additional services in the amount of \$578,732 will increase the previously approved contract amount of \$742,344 to a new not to exceed amount of \$1,321,076.

DISCUSSION: In response to concerns raised by property owners upstream of Nicasio Reservoir, the District is developing a proposed long-term maintenance plan supported by a hydrologic model to address existing conditions and contributors to upstream flooding. The long-term plan is expected to include the proposed removal of a significant volume of sediment from Nicasio and Halleck Creeks in addition to vegetation thinning and widening of the creek channel as it enters the reservoir. The proposed plan is also expected to identify future maintenance actions to maintain channel capacity.

Given the extent of the work and the potential linkage of the reservoir to upstream effects, staff is proposing to include the long-term maintenance plan activities as part of the ARC project. To integrate the long-term maintenance plan activities into the ARC project, ESA will need to provide supplemental environmental analysis to be included in the existing ARC Environmental Impact Report.

This proposed second contract amendment will add the services necessary to integrate the proposed long-term maintenance plan into the ARC project environmental analysis and to provide additional hydrologic studies to assess the potential effects from water supplied through the ARC project into Nicasio reservoir on upstream and downstream receptors.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The original Professional Services Agreement with ESA was approved in the amount of \$387,685. Amendment No. 1 increased the contract amount by \$354,659 to provide services to develop the long-term maintenance plan and to support the permitting process for short-term work to be accomplished in 2026, resulting in a revised total contract amount of \$742,344. Amendment No. 2 further increases the contract amount by \$578,732 to provide services to integrate the long-term maintenance plan into the ARC project, provide environmental analysis and studies to assess the potential effects from water supplied through the ARC project into Nicasio reservoir on upstream and downstream receptors for a new total approved contract value of \$1,321,076. Funding for this work was not included in the 2-year adopted budget for FY 2025/26 – FY 2026/27, however, funds are available in the District’s Capital Reserve for this purpose. The Board’s approval of this amendment will also include an approved increase in expenditure appropriations by \$578,732 in the Water Resources Administration cost center (4510).

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed Amendment No. 2 – Scope of Services & Fee

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Water Resources	 Paul Sellier Water Resources Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager