





# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Finance and Administration Committee/Board of Directors Meeting  
**Title:** Resolution Authorizing Lagunitas Creek Restoration Grant Funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$4,659,898  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Watershed Resources Manager   
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager   
**Meeting Date:** October 26, 2023

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**TYPE OF ACTION:**                      Action                      Information                      X                      Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and refer for Board approval a resolution authorizing acceptance of grant monies, and authorizing the General Manager to sign a grant agreement with the State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in the amount of \$4,659,898 and to recruit and fill one fulltime limited-term Natural Resources Technician position within the Watershed Division, Fisheries Department, to be funded through the CDFW grant

**SUMMARY:** On September 14, 2023, the District received a conditional letter of award for \$4,659,898 from the CDFW Restoration Grant Program to implement Phase 1 of the Lagunitas Creek Coho Enhancement Project. This grant includes funding for a District Natural Resources Technician staff position to support the project and ongoing monitoring.

**DISCUSSION:** The Lagunitas Creek Coho Enhancement Project planning effort has been advancing with CDFW funding and other agency collaboration since 2019. The District and its consultant, ESA, are on track to complete final designs, environmental compliance, and permitting for the eight sites within the Phase 1 Lagunitas Creek priority reach by March 2024. In anticipation of this, staff have applied for multiple grants to begin implementation of these eight sites in summer 2024. With the most recent grant award from CDFW, a total of \$6,649,898, has been secured to fully implement all of Phase 1, including funding from US Bureau of Reclamation (\$1.4M), CDFW (\$4,659,898), and DWR (\$590,000).

The CDFW Watershed Restoration Grants Program: Protecting Salmon initiative supports projects that address urgent degrading water and habitat conditions due to climate change impacts. The District applied to this grant program to fund implementation of Sites 1-6 within the Phase 1 Lagunitas Creek priority reach. A total of \$4,659,898 was requested in June 2023, and a conditional letter of award for the full amount was received September 23, 2023. Grant funds will be used to hire a contractor to install habitat structures and augment spawning gravel at six sites, as well as provide construction management and monitoring support.

This grant allocates \$226,800 in funding for a Natural Resources Technician position within the District's Fisheries Department to support the compliance monitoring requirements associated with this project. This position does not currently exist within the Fisheries Department. It will be created as a limited-term position and filled once the grant agreement is in place. The District will be reimbursed on a quarterly basis for staff time associated with this position up to a total of \$226,800 under the grant agreement. CDFW allows grantees to recoup indirect costs (administration and overhead) up to a maximum of 20% of a staff person's hourly wage. Under this grant, invoices that include indirect costs over 20% are not eligible for reimbursement. Therefore, any amounts in excess of this limit during the course of this grant term will be funded through the Fisheries Department's annual operating budget.

In order to initiate the formal acceptance of this Watershed Restoration Grant, the Board of Directors must adopt a resolution authorizing the General Manager to sign and file the grant agreement. Staff is requesting this item be reviewed and referred to a regular bi-monthly Board meeting for the Board to consider approval of a resolution authorizing and directing the General Manager to negotiate and execute a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement the Lagunitas Creek Coho Enhancement Project, Phase 1 and to recruit and fill one limited-term Natural Resources Technician position within the Fisheries Department to support this project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Staff anticipates that the limited-term Natural Resources Technician position will be 95-100% funded via CDFW grant reimbursement. Because CDFW caps reimbursable indirect costs for staff time at 20%, any additional indirect costs associated with this position would be the District's responsibility. The exact indirect cost for this position will be determined as part of the District's annual budget cycle.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.