



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Nicasio Creek Fisheries Study
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: October 17, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Review and refer a professional services agreement for a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek to a future meeting of the Board of Directors for consideration of approval

SUMMARY: The District prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a fisheries study of Nicasio Creek to support the Water Supply Roadmap. The RFP includes three tasks: 1) streamflow monitoring; 2) stream habitat surveys; and 3) biological surveys for salmonids and other special-status species. The RFP was distributed on September 25, 2024, and proposals are due on October 18, 2024. District Watershed staff will review all proposals received and make a recommend for approval at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. The study is expected to begin in November 2024 and to be completed by late summer 2025.

DISCUSSION: As part of the District’s ongoing Water Supply Roadmap actions, raising Nicasio Reservoir’s spillway was identified as a potential project to increase local water storage. Nicasio Creek flows from Nicasio Reservoir approximately one-mile through District-owned and private land before joining Lagunitas Creek. Currently, there are limited biological and hydrologic data available for this reach of Nicasio Creek. Therefore, additional studies are needed to support ongoing water supply planning, permitting, and environmental compliance. Specifically, the District seeks to better understand seasonal streamflow patterns and the presence/absence of aquatic species within this reach of Nicasio Creek.

The District prepared and distributed a RFP to three qualified consulting firms (Stillwater Sciences, Environmental Science Associates, and WRA Environmental Consultants). Proposals are required to include consultant staff qualifications and experience, a work schedule, and a detailed task-based budget. The RFP was distributed on September 25, 2024, and proposals are due on October 18, 2024. District staff will make a recommendation for approval of a professional services agreement at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting for consideration of approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost of this study has not been determined. Proposals will include detailed task-based budgets. Total cost information will be presented at the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.