



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Operations Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Grant Funding Agreements for Integrated Regional Water Management Program and Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Awards
From: Jamie Hailer, Grant Program Coordinator *JH*
Shaun Horne, Watershed Resources Manager *SH*
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager *BH*
Meeting Date: January 12, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: Action Information X Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Review receipt of grant awards for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant and Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grants and refer the item to a regular Board of Directors meeting to consider approving grant awards and authorizing the General Manager to sign grant agreements and other documents necessary for acceptance

SUMMARY: The District continues to track and apply for state and federal grant funding opportunities that align with District programs and projects. As part of this effort the District submitted and is being awarded the following grants.

- 1) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Grant from the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Marin City/San Rafael Water Supply Resilience Project in the amount of \$6,408,000
- 2) State of California's, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for One Tam Regional Forest Conservation Project-Phase I in the amount of \$4,260,000 of which \$2,800,000 supports Marin Water's Biodiversity Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan work

Staff is requesting that the Operations Committee review and refer to a future regularly scheduled Board Meeting to consider approving grant awards and authorizing the General Manager to sign grant agreements and other documents necessary for acceptance of the grant awards on behalf of the District.

DISCUSSION: The District is actively monitoring and tracking state and federal funding grant programs in an effort to pair grant opportunities with District projects and programs. Recent grant applications have resulted in two grant awards that now require the District to enter into funding agreements.

Bay Area IRWMP Grant

Association for Bay Area Governments (ABAG) received a 2014 Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Grant from the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) to help fund local projects located within the San Francisco Bay Area IRWM region (Work Plan). The District has actively participated in the Bay Area IRWMP planning process and responded to grant solicitations with project proposals since the program's inception. The District responded to the most recent grant solicitation with a grant funding proposal in the amount of \$6,408,000 with a District match in the amount of \$1,300,000 for implementation of the Marin City/San Rafael Water Supply Resilience Project (Project). The Project will replace water main infrastructure in Marin City and the San Rafael Canal District. The grant also includes funding for community partners to conduct project related outreach to support implementation and community based water education activities.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is awarding the Bay Area IRWMP through ABAG \$32,214,479 in State funding (State Grant) to advance projects in the Bay Area Work Plan. In order for the District to accept the grant funds for implementation of the Project the District is required to enter into a Local Project Sponsor Agreement (LPSA). The LPSA needs to be signed and fully executed in order to support funding reimbursements for implementation of the Project.

Wildlife Conservation Board Grant

The One Tam Forest Conservation project is being funded by the State of California's Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Forest Conservation Program. The funding source originates from the General Fund, Budget Act of 2023, Nature Based Solutions (AB102, Sec. 85(3a)). The Forest Conservation Program (Program) was created on November 7, 2006 with the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). That Act charged the Board to develop a grant program and "...promote the ecological integrity and economic stability of California's diverse native forests for all their public benefits through forest conservation, preservation, and restoration of productive managed forest lands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitat for native fish and wildlife and plants found on these lands" (PRC section 75055a).

The WCB will be reviewing the One Tam Forest Conservation Project Phase I grant agreement for award at its upcoming Board meeting on February 15th. Prior to the WCB approval of the grant agreement, the project applicants are required to sign a funding agreement. The One Tam Forest Conservation Project will support implementation of 1,100 acres of forest health treatments across U.S. National Parks Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and Marin Municipal Water District lands. Project activities are being informed by the recently completed One Tam Forest Health Strategy and align with the District's Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP). The District will be awarded \$2,800,000 of the \$4,260,000 grant award and will match the grant with \$1,112,687 of Capital BFFIP funding or other eligible grant funding. This grant is one in a series of grants that the District and One Tam are currently pursuing to support the advancement of the One Tam Forest Health Plan in an effort to restore forest resiliency and mitigate wildfire hazards in Marin County.

Staff is requesting that the Operations Committee review and refer to a future regularly scheduled Board Meeting to consider approving acceptance of the IRWMP and WCB grants and authorizing the General Manager to sign the grant agreements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The District as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for the BFFIP, which was adopted in 2019 and covers all work being funded by the WCB Grant. The District will file a CEQA Categorical Exemption section 15302 or replacement and maintenance of existing infrastructure for the Marin City/San Rafael Water Supply Resilience Project prior to implementation of the IRWMP Grant funded work.

FISCAL IMPACT: For the Bay Area IRWMP grant, the District will match \$1,300,000, which is currently funded in the Capital Program for this project. For the WCB grant, the District will match \$1,112,687 with Watershed Capital funding or with funding from other grants.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.