

## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors

**Title:** Proposed Increases to Certain Watershed Fines

From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources

**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

Meeting Date: July 16, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: X Action Information Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and approve an increase to certain watershed fines and bail amounts

**SUMMARY:** Staff will review the District's current watershed regulations and is proposing increases to certain fines. Staff with the Finance Committee recommendations is proposing watershed fine increases for the Board of Directors to review and considering approving. Updates to the fines would be submitted to the County as part of the annual bail schedule update process that occurs in December 2024.

**DISCUSSION:** Each year, the Marin County Superior Court requests local agencies review the Marin County Superior Court Bail Schedule for updates, corrections and changes to their base fines. The updated bail schedules are typically submitted in November of each year and are established in January. The Board of Directors did a comprehensive review of the Watershed regulations in 2017 and has done minor updates since that time. The 2017 updates brought fines in-line with the County's standard fines and fees. Most recently, on December 13, 2022, the District increased the fine schedule for District code violations related to fire hazards, including smoking, starting a fire or using fireworks on the watershed due to the elevated risk of wildfire in the region.

As the District continues to advance the Strategic Opportunities identified in the recently completed Watershed Recreation Management Planning Feasibility Study, staff is proposing minor updates to the watershed fines. The updates are being proposed to support the District's ability to encourage visitor compliance with rules and regulations and are focused on those areas where a fine increase seems necessary due to a lack of compliance or multiple repeats of the same offense (such as dogs off leash). Staff reviewed the proposed updates with the Finance Committee at the June 27, 2024 meeting. Based on input received from the Finance Committee, staff is proposing a uniform increase to fines for watershed visitor violations. The District is also proposing increases to fines for violations of key natural resources protection regulations such as those posing a threat to water quality, archeological and

sensitive watershed resources. A schedule of all of the proposed changes is attached to the proposed resolution, and if adopted, would go into effect on January 1, 2025.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Proposed Resolution with Revised Fine Schedule

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	Shan Jus	M. Harente n
	Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	Ben Horenstein General Manager