



REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

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Consent
August 6, 2009

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Supplemental Grant Funding for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution accepting supplemental grant funding in the amount of \$151,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project and authorizing the City Manager to take any actions necessary to receive the additional grant funding.

Contact: Sarah Foley, 808-1997, Kathy Howard 808-1995

Presenters: Not Applicable

Department: Utilities

Division: City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning (CCOMWP)

Organization No: 14001911 (Department I.D.)

Description/Analysis

Issue: In October 2006 the City of Sacramento entered into a grant funding agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on behalf of the CCOMWP for grant funding of up to \$600,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project, expected to be completed by September 30, 2011 (City Agreement No. 2006-1211.) The purpose of the project is for the planning, permitting and placement of gravel to restore spawning sites in the lower American River. USBR is now providing an additional \$151,000 of grant funding for this work.

Policy Considerations: This grant funding will aid in habitat restoration efforts for the Lower American River, consistent with goals of the Water Forum Agreement.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

A review of the project indicates that the work would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Small Restoration Projects. The project does not exceed five acres in size, will be undertaken for the purpose of assuring the restoration of habitat for fish, would have no significant impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat, and would not otherwise result in any significant effects on the environment.

Sustainability Considerations: Approval of this Supplemental Grant Funding Agreement with USBR is consistent with the City of Sacramento's Sustainability Master Plan Goals.

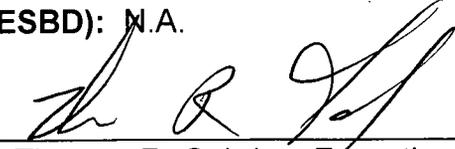
Sustainability Goal No. 7 - Parks, Open Space and Habitat Conservation is promoted by the second co-equal objective of the Water Forum Agreement "To preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River."

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: Replenishing gravel in spawning riffles in the lower American River will provide additional spawning areas and help to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat. This activity is consistent with the Water Forum Agreement objective to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

Financial Considerations: This project has no impact on the City of Sacramento's General Fund. To date, the Bureau of Reclamation has obligated \$300,000 for this project. The Bureau of Reclamation has authorized an additional \$451,000 for this project, exceeding the original grant funding amount by \$151,000.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): N.A.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Thomas R. Gohring, Executive Director
Sacramento City-County Office of
Metropolitan Water Planning

Approved by: 
Marty Hanneman
ACM / Director, Department of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:


600 Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Background Information:

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates facilities that regulate flows in the lower American River, which contains populations of anadromous Chinook salmon and threatened steelhead trout. Flow regulation and stream channel manipulations have modified anadromous salmonid habitat in the American River. Specifically, gravel is regularly lost from spawning sites on the river because of the construction and operation of Central Valley Project dams, bank protection projects, and other actions that reduce the availability of spawning gravel and rearing habitat in the American River downstream of Nimbus Dam.

The purpose of this project is to provide funding for planning, permitting, placement of gravel, pre and post project site surveys, and the monitoring of spawning gravel and the response of salmonids in the lower American River in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The purpose of the CVPIA is to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the Central Valley Basin.

Through this grant the Sacramento Region Water Forum will assist Reclamation in selecting the sites, obtaining appropriate permits, planning for and placing spawning gravel and monitoring the response of salmonids.

This project is consistent with the goals of the Fisheries and Instream Habitat Plan, which is incorporated into the River Corridor Management Plan (RCMP). The RCMP is a coordinated approach to management of the lower American River that was developed and endorsed by 38 organizations and local governments in 2002, including the City of Sacramento. Further, the project is a key project under the Habitat Management Element (HME) of the Water Forum Agreement, of which the City is a signatory. The HME implements one of the Agreement's co-equal objectives, which is to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

ACCEPTANCE OF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FUNDING FOR THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER SALMONID SPAWNING GRAVEL AUGMENTATION PROJECT

BACKGROUND

- A. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) operates facilities that regulate flows in the lower American River, which contains populations of anadromous Chinook salmon and threatened steelhead trout. Gravel is regularly lost from spawning sites on the river because of the construction and operation of Central Valley Project dams, bank protection projects, and other actions that reduce the availability of spawning gravel and rearing habitat in the American River downstream of Nimbus Dam.
- B. In October 2006 the City of Sacramento entered into a grant funding agreement with the USBR, on behalf of the City County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning, for grant funding of up to \$600,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project, expected to be completed by September 30, 2011 (City Agreement No. 2006-1211.) The purpose of the project is for the planning, permitting and placement of gravel to restore spawning sites in the lower American River.
- C. The USBR is now providing an additional \$151,000 of grant funding for this work.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City accepts the USBR's supplemental grant funding in the amount of \$151,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project, and the City Manager is authorized to take any actions necessary to receive the additional grant funding.