



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604

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Consent

October 20, 2009

Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

**Title:** Memorandum of Understanding with Sacramento County regarding technical support services for the Lower American River Flow Management Standard Environmental Impact Report

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a **Resolution** authorizing the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sacramento County for an amount not to exceed \$160,000, for the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment (DERA) to provide technical support during preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) necessary for the Water Forum Successor Effort lower American River Flow Management Standard.

**Contact:** Kathy Howard, Administrative Analyst 808-1995; Tom Gohring, Executive Director 808-1998; Sarah Foley, Program Manager 808-1997

**Presenters:** Not Applicable

**Department:** Utilities

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

**Organization No:** 14001911

### Description/Analysis

**Issue:** This report identifies the need for technical services to the CCOMWP, which staffs and manages the Water Forum Successor Effort. The lower American River Flow Management Standard (FMS) update project is an essential requirement of the Water Forum Agreement (WFA). In FY2010 DERA will provide technical services necessary to assist with development of the updated lower American River FMS EIR.

**Policy Considerations:** This report is submitted in compliance with the policy direction provided by the Sacramento City Council and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in forming the CCOMWP, approving its work plan, and supporting the efforts of the Water Forum (City Agreement 2001-005).

**Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

Approval of this agreement will allow environmental review required for the Lower American River Flow Management Standard to be performed.

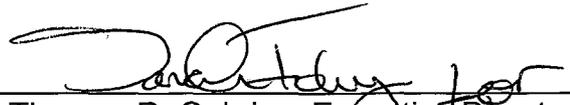
**Sustainability Considerations:** Approval of this agreement is consistent with the City of Sacramento's Sustainability Master Plan Goals. Pursuit of a Flow Management Standard for the lower American River that is more protective of fisheries and aquatic resources is a fundamental element of the Water Forum Agreement, which is supported by the City's Sustainability Goal No. 7 - Parks, Open Space and Habitat Conservation.

**Commission/Committee Action: None**

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Funding for the Flow Management Standard EIR was approved with adoption of the Fiscal Year 2009/10 CCOMWP budget. Approval of this MOU is consistent with the approved budget.

**Financial Considerations:** This MOU has no impact on the City's General Fund. There are sufficient resources for the proposed agreement in the amount of \$160,000 in Fund 7104 for the Habitat Management Element (HME). The HME is funded by a cost share agreement among the City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, and other diverters of non-Central Valley Project (CVP) water from the American River.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None.**

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

Approved by:   
Marty Hanneman  
Director, Department of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:

  
Ray Kerridge, City Manager

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Attachment 1

**Background Information:**

- The City and County of Sacramento created the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning (CCOMWP) in 1991 to pursue a joint water planning effort in the greater Sacramento Metropolitan area.
- In 1993, a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizens groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments formed the Sacramento Area Water Forum.
- In 1999, Water Forum members approved a comprehensive Water Forum Agreement (WFA) (City Agreement No. 1999-222). The WFA consists of integrated actions necessary for providing a regional solution to water shortages, environmental damage, groundwater contamination, and limited economic prosperity.
- The CCOMWP has been charged with staffing the effort to implement the WFA, known as the Water Forum Successor Effort (WFSE).
- A revised flow standard that is more protective of the aquatic resources of the lower American River (LAR) is one the WFA's seven elements and critical to meeting its co-equal objectives. These activities include modification of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's water right permit through the State Water Resources Control Board. In FY2010-2011 the CCOMWP, on behalf of the WFSE, will work on environmental documentation, including defining the scope of work and developing a project description and project alternatives.
- The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Flow Management Standard is necessary to proceed with formal adoption of the flow standard for the lower American River. It is anticipated that the draft EIR will be published within 12 months

**RESOLUTION NO.**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGARDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER FLOW MANAGEMENT STANDARD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

- A. The City and County of Sacramento created the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning (CCOMWP) in 1991 to pursue a joint water planning effort in the greater Sacramento Metropolitan area.
- B. In 1999, Water Forum members approved a comprehensive Water Forum Agreement (WFA) (City Agreement No. 1999-222).
- C. The CCOMWP has been charged with staffing the effort to implement the WFA, known as the Water Forum Successor Effort (WFSE).
- D. Implementation of a revised flow standard that is more protective of the aquatic resources of the lower American River (LAR) is one the WFA's seven elements and is an important task of the WFSE. In FY2010-2011 the CCOMWP, on behalf of the WFSE, will work on environmental documentation, including defining the scope of work and developing a project description and project alternatives.
- E. The Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment will provide technical support during preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Flow Management Standard.

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

- Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Sacramento County for an amount not to exceed \$160,000, for the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review and Assessment to provide technical support for the Environmental Impact Report necessary for the Water Forum Successor Effort's update of the lower American River Flow Management Standard.