



# REPORT TO COUNCIL City of Sacramento

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www. CityofSacramento.org

Consent  
August 24, 2010

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

**Title: Agreements:** Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution: 1) authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute the following agreements related to the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project being administered by the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning:

- (a) an Agreement with the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation (DOT) to accept \$100,000 in additional funding for additional gravel augmentation to satisfy mitigation requirements associated with the County's Watt Avenue Bridge Widening project;
- (b) a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to accept additional project funding in the amount of \$148,695.28; and
- (c) a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the County of Sacramento Parks Department (County Parks) regarding effects to historic properties from the acquisition of gravel from Sailor Bar on the American River;

and 2) increasing Fund 7104 revenue and expense budgets for G14000200 by \$248,695.28 to reflect the reimbursements from the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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

**Presenters:** Not Applicable

**Department:** Utilities

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

**Department No:** 14001911

**Description/Analysis**

**Issue:** In October 2006 the City of Sacramento entered into a grant funding agreement with Reclamation, on behalf of the CCOMWP, for grant funding of up to \$600,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project (Project), expected to be completed by September 30, 2011 (C2006-1211.) The purpose of the Project is to increase the availability of spawning gravel and rearing habitat for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the lower American River. In August 2009, the City Council authorized the acceptance of an additional \$151,000 of grant funding from Reclamation for the Project (C2006-1211-1). To date the Project has been very successful and the FY2011 budget is now being increased by \$248,695.28. This funding is being provided by two sources: \$148,695.28 from the USFWS and \$100,000 from the County of Sacramento DOT. Pursuant to the Interagency Agreement that created the CCOMWP, the City's procedures are followed for all CCOMWP contracting activities.

**Policy Considerations:** This Project will aid fish habitat restoration efforts for the Lower American River, consistent with goals of the Water Forum Agreement.

**Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):**

The project is subject to review pursuant to both CEQA and NEPA. The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for NEPA review. That process has included a review of biological resources and historic resources.

The Bureau has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and determined that while historic resources would be affected, interpretive efforts of the Bureau would mitigate any significant effects. The environmental assessment has been revised to include coverage of the historic resources and agreement to mitigate, and to confirm that the project would not affect sensitive biological resources. The result has been a finding that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. The NEPA review process does not require action by the City Council.

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 restoring 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. If the project is approved staff will prepare and file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Sacramento County Clerk.

**Sustainability Considerations:** Approval of the recommended actions 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 the lower American River will improve spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish. 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 and no match is required. To date the Bureau of Reclamation has obligated \$751,000. The County of Sacramento DOT is now contributing \$100,000 to this Project in order to satisfy mitigation requirements associated with the County's Watt Avenue Bridge Widening Project as required by the California Department of Fish and Game. The USFWS is contributing \$148,695.28 to help support the Project.

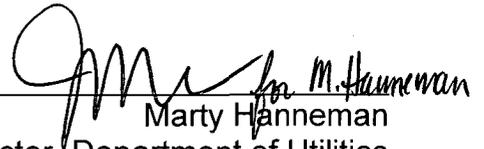
**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): N.A.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



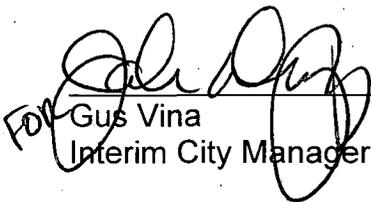
Thomas R. Gohring, Executive Director  
Sacramento City-County Office of  
Metropolitan Water Planning

Approved by:



Marty Hanneman  
Director, Department of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:



Gus Vina  
Interim 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 CCOMWP, on behalf of the Sacramento Region Water Forum, will assist Reclamation in carrying out this project, including permitting, inter-agency coordination, contracting, gravel production and placement, and post-project monitoring.

Reclamation has chosen to utilize mining dredgings at Sailor Bar in the American River Parkway for this Project. These dredgings were identified as having significant historical value during Reclamation's environmental analysis for the Project because of the type of mining activity that produced the dredgings. Reclamation proposes to mitigate for the use of these dredgings by developing an interpretive exhibit about historic mining activities in the Parkway. This mitigation is the subject of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Reclamation, County Parks and SHPO. The CCOMWP, on behalf of the Water Forum, has been asked to sign this MOA as a concurring party.

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. The RCMP serves as the implementation vehicle for 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

### APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS FOR THE LOWER AMERICAN RIVER SALMONID SPAWNING GRAVEL AUGMENTATION PROJECT

#### BACKGROUND

- A. 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. Gravel is regularly lost from spawning sites on the river as a result 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 Reclamation, on behalf of the City County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning (CCOMWP), for grant funding of up to \$600,000 for the Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Project being administered by the CCOMWP, expected to be completed by September 30, 2011. The purpose of the Project is to increase the availability of spawning gravel and rearing habitat for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in the lower American River. In August 2009 the City Council authorized the acceptance of an additional \$151,000 of grant funding from Reclamation, increasing the Project budget to \$751,000.
- C. The Project budget is now being increased by \$248,695.28. This additional funding is being provided by two sources: \$148,695.28 from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and \$100,000 from the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation. This additional funding will increase the Project budget to a total of \$999,695.28.
- D. Reclamation has chosen to utilize mining dredgings at Sailor Bar in the American River Parkway for this Project. These dredgings were identified as having significant historical value during Reclamation's environmental analysis for the Project because of the type of mining activity that produced the dredgings. Reclamation proposes to mitigate for the use of these dredgings by developing an interpretive exhibit about historic mining activities in the Parkway. This mitigation is the subject of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Reclamation, the County of Sacramento Parks Department (County Parks) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The CCOMWP, on behalf of the Water Forum, has been asked to sign this MOA as a concurring party.

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

- Section 1. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to execute an Agreement with the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation to accept \$100,000 in additional funding for additional gravel augmentation to satisfy mitigation requirements associated with the County's Watt Avenue Bridge Widening project.
- Section 2. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to execute a Cooperative Agreement with USFWS to accept additional Project funding in the amount of \$148,695.28.
- Section 3. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with Reclamation, SHPO and County Parks regarding effects to historic properties from the acquisition of gravel from Sailor Bar on the American River.
- Section 4. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is authorized to increase the Habitat Management Element funding (Fund 7104) revenue and expenditure budgets for G14000200 by \$248,695.28.
- Section 5. Exhibits A, B and C are part of this Resolution.

Table of Contents:

- Exhibit A: Agreement with the County of Sacramento Department of Transportation
- Exhibit B: Cooperative Agreement with USFWS
- Exhibit C: Memorandum of Agreement with Reclamation, SHPO and County Parks