

Ventura County Watershed Protection District



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March 14, 2017

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Approval of, and Authorization for, the Acceptance of \$3,547,863 in Local Levee Assistance Grant Round 3 Funding From the California Department of Water Resources, for Two Local Levee Evaluation Projects and Two Local Levee Critical Repair Projects; and Authorization for the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (District) Director to Execute the Grant Agreements. Supervisorial Districts 1, 3, and 5; WPD Zones 1, 2, and 3

Recommendations:

1. Accept \$3,547,863 in Local Levee Assistance Program (Levee Grant Program) Funding from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for four Levee Rehabilitation Flood Protection Projects located countywide;
2. Authorize the District Director to execute the four grant agreements (Exhibits 1-4).

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	LLAP2015 Program Funding
Funding Match Required:	45% total, from Zone 1, 2 and 3
Impact on Other Departments:	None

<u>Summary of Revenues & Costs:</u>	<u>FY 2016-17</u>	<u>FY 2017-18 through 2021-22</u>
Revenue:	\$ 0	\$ 3,547,863
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 152,105	\$ 6,157,349
Indirect/Agency Dept.	\$ 45,415	\$ 88,479
Indirect/County CAP	\$ 2,480	\$ 4,832
Total Costs	\$ 200,000	\$ 6,250,660
Net District Costs	\$ 200,000	\$ 2,702,797
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

Current FY Budget Projections

Current FY 2016-17 Budget Projection for Watershed Protection Zones 1, 2 and 3 Units 4211, 4224 and 4231				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$14,931,700	\$16,642,597	\$13,454,000	\$3,188,597
Revenue	\$9,371,700	\$9,371,700	\$14,513,500	\$5,141,800
Net Cost	\$5,560,000	\$7,270,897	(\$1,059,500)	\$8,330,397

FY 2016-17 costs represent a portion of the 45% cost share requirement. Appropriations are included in the FY 2016-17 Adjusted Budgets for Zones 1, 2, and 3. Appropriations and revenue for FY 2017-18 through FY 2021-22 will be budgeted, as appropriate.

Discussion:

Your Board's approval of acceptance of \$3,547,863 in funding from the DWR Levee Grant Program will fund four projects: two under the Local Levee Evaluation (LOLE) funding track [i.e. the Calleguas Creek Levee 2 (CC-2) and the Ventura River Levee 2 (VR-2)]; and two under the Local Levee Critical Repair (LLCR) funding track: [i.e. the Santa Clara River Levee 1 (SCR-1) and the Ventura River Levee 1 (VR-1)].

The Levee Grant Program was created by DWR to assist local public agencies responsible for flood protection outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Levee Grant Program solicits applications, evaluates proposals, and awards grant funding using monies made available to the DWR for levee evaluations, and design and construction of critical levee repairs.

In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act. Under that Act, funds for programs to evaluate and repair local levees and flood control facilities were provided to DWR to help fund Levee Grant Program activities statewide.

The Levee Grant Program utilizes two funding tracks to assist local public agencies evaluate the structural condition of levees and implement critical repair work, as needed.

The LOLE funding track provides grant funding to local levee operators required to conduct systemic evaluation of their levees; including project feasibility studies, surveys, hydrology, geotechnical evaluations, and hydraulic studies, for levees that are at risk of failing and therefore, at risk of not meeting the Federal levee certification requirements found in 44 CFR Section 65.10.

The LLCR funding track provides grant funds to both design and construct critical levee repairs. The primary objective of the LLCR funding track is to assist local flood management agencies with critical repairs of local flood control facilities, including but not limited to erosion-damaged levees, levees with unstable slopes, and other unstable facilities.

The LLCR funding track may also fund structures that are designated to reduce flood risk and may include but are not limited to floodwalls, berms, detention basins, or any structures to address freeboard, deficiencies or substandard encroachment.

The Levee Grant Program places a high value on the concept and commitment of responsibility to manage and protect natural resources (water, air, land, plants and animals) and ecosystems in a sustainable manner and create human systems consistent with natural systems. Therefore, preferential value is placed on levee rehabilitation projects that accommodate and sustain ecosystem functions successfully.

Funds allocated for the Levee Grant Program are awarded by DWR through a competitive solicitation process. Funding was offered Statewide, except for levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which are evaluated separately by the DWR. Execution of State grant agreements and disbursements of Levee Grant Program funding is subject to the availability of funds, including any mandates from the Department of Finance, the Pooled Money Investment Board, and any other State authority.

Levee Repair Funding projects could apply for up to \$5 million per project and Levee Evaluation Funding projects could apply for up to \$2 million per project. Cost share for all Levee Grant Program grants is a base of 50% of the total cost of the project, with additional State share percentage points awarded to local agencies for projects that help protect critical state infrastructure (i.e. State Hwys 101 and 33), and/or enhanced habitats, open-space and recreation.

In Ventura County, there were eight District owned and operated levees countywide which were "not-certifiable" in full compliance with Federal levee certification requirement provisions found in 44 CFR 65.10 by the November 30, 2009 expiration date set by FEMA.

At that time, the District developed a planning level estimate of \$132 million to rehabilitate these eight levees, and by so doing achieve full regulatory compliance with the above-referenced Federal levee certification requirements.

In 2011, DWR issued a Notice of Funding Availability for the second round of Levee Grant Program grant funding. At that time, the District submitted eleven grant applications to DWR requesting funds under the second round of Levee Grant Program funding.

In the summer of 2012, the District was awarded \$9.5 million in Levee Grant Program funding by DWR, which was the third highest grant award in the State. That grant award represented nearly 20% of the \$49.2 million State-wide total awarded by DWR under the second round of Levee Grant Program.

In December 2014, DWR re-published the "Guidelines for Providing Funding to Local Public Agencies under Proposition 84 of 2006" detailing the conditions and requirements of the Levee Evaluation and Critical Repair Funding track strategies, including the announcement that at least \$13 million was being made available by DWR for a third round of Levee Grant Program funding.

In March of 2015, your Board approved the District's submission of four grant applications to DWR under the third round of Levee Grant Program funding. The projects included two projects under the LOLE funding track which were: the Calleguas Creek Levee (CC-2) in the City of Camarillo, and the Ventura River Levee (VR-2) in the Unincorporated Casitas Springs community; and two projects under the LLCR funding track: the Santa Clara River Levee (SCR-1) in the City of Oxnard, and the Ventura River Levee (VR-1) in the City of Ventura.

In September 2016, DWR announced the recipients of funding for the Levee Grant Program. The District was awarded \$3,547,863 for this latest round, which represented nearly 23% of the \$15.3 million State-wide total awarded by DWR under the third round of Levee Grant Program.

Combined with the \$9.5 million grant awarded to the District in 2012, this most recent grant award from DWR means that during the last two cycles of State Levee Grant Program grant funding, the County of Ventura will have received a total of \$13 million in State grant funding support for our ongoing critical certification and rehabilitation project work for District levees countywide.

This item has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 654-2040. Or you may contact Gerard Kapuscik, Manager, Strategic Resiliency Group at (805) 648-9284.



Glenn Shephard, P.E., Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 - Grant Agreement – LOLE for CC-2 Levee
- Exhibit 2 - Grant Agreement – LOLE for VR-2 Levee
- Exhibit 3 - Grant Agreement – LLCR for SCR-1 Levee
- Exhibit 4 - Grant Agreement – LLCR for VR-1 Levee