



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
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Consent
October 31, 2006

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

Title: Cooperative Agreement for Grant Funding for Lower American River Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution ratifying approval of the Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau of Reclamation) and the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning to secure funding in the amount of \$150,000 to replenish gravel in spawning riffles in the lower American River, to provide additional spawning areas and help to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat.

Contact: Sarah Foley, (916) 808-1997, Kathy Howard, (916) 808-1995

Presenters: Not Applicable

Department: Utilities

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

Organization No: 8810

Description/Analysis

Issue: 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 cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation is to secure funding for the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning for the planning, permitting and placement of gravel to restore these spawning sites in the lower American River. This report requests Council ratification of the Assistant City Manager's prior approval of a Cooperative Agreement to obtain this funding.

Policy Considerations: This report is provided 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.

Environmental Considerations: Project implementation will include compliance with any applicable requirements for environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

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: The proposed project has no impact on the City of Sacramento's General Fund. The Bureau of Reclamation has made available \$150,000 through September 2007, with an additional estimated amount of \$450,000 available through September 2011, if funding is available in the subsequent years.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not Applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: 
SARAH FOLEY, PROGRAM MANAGER

Recommendation Approved:

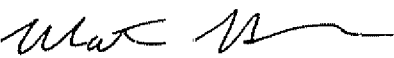

Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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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 cooperative agreement 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. Reclamation has made \$150,000 available in Fiscal Year 2007, with an additional estimated amount of \$450,000 provided through 2011 if funding is available in subsequent years.

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.

Ordinarily, Council approval would be obtained prior to execution of an agreement to obtain funding for this purpose. However, staff of the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning did not receive the funding agreement from Reclamation until the week preceding the close of the federal fiscal year (September 30). Staff was notified by Reclamation that unless the agreement was signed prior to September 30, funding for the project would be lost.

In order to retain this funding, an Assistant City Manager approved the agreement, and instructed staff to report to Council and request ratification of this approval as soon as possible. Staff believes it is in the interest of the City of Sacramento to ratify the approval of this agreement as part of the City's long-term commitment to the Water Forum Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR LOWER AMERICAN RIVER SALMONID SPAWNING GRAVEL AUGMENTATION

BACKGROUND

- A. The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau of 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.
- B. Shortly before close of the federal fiscal year, an Assistant City Manager approved a cooperative agreement with Reclamation that provides federal funding to the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning for planning, permitting and placement of gravel to restore these spawning sites, as well as pre- and post-project site surveys, and the monitoring of spawning gravel and the response of salmonids in the lower American River.
- C. The Bureau of Reclamation has made \$150,000 available in Fiscal Year 2007, with an additional estimated amount of \$450,000 provided through 2011 if funding is available in subsequent years.
- D. 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.

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

- Section 1. The City Council ratifies the prior approval of the Cooperative Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation and the City-County Office of Metropolitan Water Planning to provide grant funding in the amount of \$150,000 for the replenishment of gravel in spawning riffles in the lower American River to benefit fish habitat.