

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: STEVE BRADY, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST
WATER DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AND
SONOMA WATER TO CONTINUE THE CREEK STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Council, by resolution, authorize the Director of Water to execute a joint funding agreement with Sonoma Water to continue the Creek Stewardship Program through fiscal year 2024-2025 and authorize the use of Storm Water Enterprise funds for this purpose.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Implementation of the City's Creek Stewardship Program requires a joint funding agreement (Agreement) with Sonoma Water to fund City staff coordinating the program and provide the City use of Sonoma County Probation Department's Supervised Adult Crews. The Creek Stewardship Program relates to the Council's goal promoting environmental sustainability by protecting and improving creek conditions in Santa Rosa.

BACKGROUND

The Creek Stewardship Program was initiated in 2002 by a joint funding agreement between the City and Sonoma Water (formerly Sonoma County Water Agency) to:

- Increase community awareness of the benefits provided by local creeks.
- Empower residents through a meaningful role in the care and enhancement of creeks.
- Provide timely and effective response to concerns regarding creek-related environmental, safety, and recreational issues.

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The City's General Plan and Citywide Creek Master Plan promote a community involvement program to care for local creeks. Without an organized creek program, creek issues such as illicit dumping, trash, pollutant discharges, bank erosion, and growth of invasive plants can negatively impact creeks. An Environmental Specialist within the Water Department coordinates the program, develops community partnerships, creates outreach materials, communicates with Creek Stewards, and addresses issues negatively impacting creeks.

The Creek Stewardship Program has been highly successful and recognized throughout California as a model program to educate the community and address creek issues. In 2009, the City received the California Stormwater Quality Association's Outstanding Stormwater News, Information, Outreach, and Media Award for implementation of the program.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On February 26, 2002, the City Council, by Resolution No. 25140, approved creation of the Creek Stewardship Program and authorized a joint funding agreement with Sonoma Water.

On January 15, 2008, the City Council, by Resolution No. 27015, authorized a joint funding agreement for continuation of the Creek Stewardship Program with Sonoma Water through fiscal year 2012-2013.

On August 6, 2013, the City Council, by Resolution No. 28321, authorized a joint funding agreement for continuation of the Creek Stewardship Program with Sonoma Water through fiscal year 2018-2019.

ANALYSIS

The Water, Transportation and Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and Police Departments, as well as Sonoma Water staff, support continuation of the Creek Stewardship Program, recognizing its role in the implementation of the Citywide Creek Master Plan and the benefits that the program provides to the community.

The City and Sonoma Water are co-permittees along with the County of Sonoma and other local municipalities under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for municipal storm water discharges, issued by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Creek Stewardship Program would assist in fulfilling the storm water permit work plan which requires extensive outreach, particularly to youth, and actions to reduce pollutants of concern, including pet waste, vehicle fluids, household toxins, pesticides and fertilizers, construction waste, green waste, and trash.

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The Agreement provides continued funding for an Environmental Specialist position (including benefits and general government overhead) within the Water Department to coordinate the Program. The Agreement would also provide the City the use of Sonoma County Probation Department's Supervised Adult Crews contracted through Sonoma Water for thirty days per year to perform work that is beyond the capabilities of volunteers. The City's Storm Water Enterprise creek restoration budget would continue to reimburse Sonoma Water for the City's use of the Supervised Adult Crews.

Funding for the Creek Stewardship Program and the services of the Supervised Adult Crews are subject to the City Council and Sonoma Water Board of Directors' approval as set forth in the Agreement. In future years, annual program funding will be approved through their respective budgets.

Either party may terminate its participation in the Agreement without cause by giving twelve months advance written notice to the other party. Either party may also terminate its participation in the Agreement for non-appropriation of funds by giving thirty days written notice to the other party.

FISCAL IMPACT

Projected Storm Water Enterprise revenue for water quality-related creek restoration purposes is sufficient to fund the City's share (\$252,000) of the proposed Agreement. City and Sonoma Water funding for the jointly funded Creek Stewardship Program for fiscal years 2019-2020 through 2024-2025 are shown in the attached Agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

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ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Agreement for Funding and Joint Implementation of Creek Stewardship Program (FY 2019/2020 – FY 2024/2025)
- Resolution

CONTACT

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