

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: HEAVEN MOORE, SUPERVISING ENGINEER
WATER DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT FOR FUNDING SPRING LAKE PARK ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOVERY CENTER OF SONOMA COUNTY BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AND SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS TO SUPPORT STORM WATER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED WITHIN THE CITIES' NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM STORM WATER PERMIT

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the City Council, by resolution, approve the Agreement for Funding the Spring Lake Park Environmental Discovery Center (EDC) of Sonoma County between the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma to support storm water education requirements within the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Permit. The City shall provide to Regional Parks an annual payment in the amount of \$12,000 per fiscal year, for five successive fiscal years, beginning in 2017/2018. Funds are to be used for the continued development and operation of the Environmental Discovery Center of Sonoma County. The total amount authorized under this agreement shall not exceed \$60,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This action will award a contract to Sonoma County through its Regional Parks Department and authorize a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000 over 5 years to support a program satisfying a requirement of the City's NPDES Storm Water Permit of storm water education and outreach to schools and school aged children.

BACKGROUND

1. Based on nationwide studies showing storm water runoff as a major source of pollution to the nation's waterways, the Clean Water Act was amended in 1987 to

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regulate storm water runoff. This resulted in storm water discharges being regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under its NPDES program.

2. US EPA regulations require municipal separate storm drain systems which serve an area with a population greater than 100,000 to obtain an NPDES Permit for storm water discharges. The population in the Santa Rosa area officially exceeded 100,000 in the 1990 census. The City of Santa Rosa has had an NPDES Storm Water Permit since 1997.
3. The City's NPDES Storm Water Permit requires storm water education and outreach to schools and school aged children.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On March 19, 2013, the City Council, by Resolution No. 28253, approved 7-0 the previous resolution for the five-year Agreement for Funding the Spring Lake Park Environmental Discovery Center (EDC) of Sonoma County between the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma for Fiscal Years 2012/2013 to 2016/2017

ANALYSIS

1. Sonoma County Regional Parks opened an environmental learning center at Spring Lake Park in April 2002. The Environmental Discovery Center (EDC) provides environmental education opportunities to school aged children and is also open to the general public. Since 2002, the City has partially funded the EDC each year to help cover program operation costs and support the continued development and implementation of their environmental education programs.
2. In a typical year, from September through January, the EDC hosts "Habitat & Home" field trips, which introduce 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders to ecosystem diversity and the importance of healthy habitats. From February through May, the EDC hosts "Down the Drain" field trips for 1st through 6th graders. The "Down the Drain" exhibit is specifically geared toward storm water education as it demonstrates a raindrop's journey from cloud to creek and teaches about the water cycle, the local watershed and the need to prevent storm water pollution. Both EDC programs have been very successful, reaching annual visitor totals of approximately 12,000 students, teachers and adults.
3. The EDC provides significant benefit to the City and the community by providing public education programs related to the natural environment including storm

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water pollution prevention. These programs help to fulfill the City's NPDES Storm Water Permit outreach requirements.

4. The City NPDES Storm Water Permit requirements pertaining to educational outreach to schools and school aged children are supported through the City of Santa Rosa Storm Water and Creeks Program support of the EDC.
5. If approved, this new Agreement for Funding will allow the Storm Water and Creeks Program to continue its annual funding contribution to Sonoma County Regional Parks for the ongoing development and operation of the EDC. The agreement will provide EDC \$12,000 per year for a period of 5 years, commencing with fiscal year 2017/18 and would replace the existing agreement dated March 19, 2013, which is set to expire this year.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is sufficient funding within the City Storm Water Enterprise Fund budget to continue funding the EDC. No General Fund money will be used for this purpose.

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 Spring Lake Park Environmental Discovery Center of Sonoma County
- Resolution

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