

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: KYLE SPONGBERG, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST, SANTA ROSA WATER
SUBJECT: AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AND SONOMA WATER TO CONTINUE THE CREEK STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2030/2031

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution, authorize the Director of Santa Rosa Water to execute the funding agreement with Sonoma Water to continue the Creek Stewardship Program through fiscal year 2030-2031.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This resolution will authorize the Director of Santa Rosa Water to execute a funding agreement with Sonoma Water to continue the Creek Stewardship Program through fiscal year 2030-2031. The Creek Stewardship Program implements the City's Strategic Priorities for Investing in the Development and Maintenance of the City's Infrastructure and Fostering a Safe, Healthy, and Inclusive Community by repairing and maintaining creek infrastructure and cleaning and protecting local creeks.

BACKGROUND

The Creek Stewardship Program was initiated in 2002 by a joint funding agreement (Agreement) between the Sonoma Water/Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Santa Rosa (City) to offer residents and visitors who live, travel, and recreate along Santa Rosa's creeks the opportunity to protect and enhance the creeks they enjoy.

A funding agreement has been renewed three times for fiscal years 2007-2008 through 2012-2013, fiscal years 2013-2014 through 2018-2019, and fiscal years 2019-2020 through 2024-2025.

The Santa Rosa General Plan 2035 and the Citywide Creek Master Plan (updated by City Council in 2013) both promote citizen involvement in the care of local creeks through the Creek Stewardship Program.

An Environmental Specialist within the Santa Rosa Water Department, jointly funded by the City and Sonoma Water, currently coordinates the Program, creates outreach materials, supports community partnerships, develops volunteer and educational activities, expedites follow through on reports, and facilitates communication between the multiple City Departments and government agencies to address creek issues.

Without an organized community involvement program, problems along creeks such as illicit dumping, pollutant discharges, illegal camping, bank erosion, growth of non-native invasive plants, and trail maintenance needs could go unaddressed for long periods of time.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

The Water, Transportation and Public Works, Recreation and Parks, and Police departments, as well as Sonoma Water staff, support the 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, which include:

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

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 (storm water permit).

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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City and Sonoma Water funding for the Creek Stewardship Program for fiscal years 2025-2026 through 2030-2031 are shown in the attached Agreement.

The Agreement provides continued funding for an Environmental Specialist position (including benefits and general government overhead) within Santa Rosa Water to coordinate the Program.

Over 150,000 individuals have participated in volunteer and educational activities hosted by the Creek Stewardship Program since its inception.

The Program has removed over 19,000 cubic yards of trash and debris from City waterways.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on the General Fund. Storm Water is an Enterprise Fund, and approval of this action does not have a fiscal impact on it or the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, the proposed action is not a “project” subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it does not have a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. In the alternative, the proposed action is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution
- Exhibit A - Agreement for Funding of Creek Stewardship Program (FY 2025/2026 – FY 2030/2031)

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PRESENTER

Kyle Spongberg, Environmental Specialist