



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 CITY'S NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

City Council Meeting  
April 17, 2018

Heaven Moore  
Supervising Engineer, Water

# CURRENT

- Sonoma County Regional Parks opened an environmental learning center at Spring Lake Park in April 2002. Now the EDC, this center provides environmental education opportunities to school aged children and is also open to the general public.
- In a typical year, from September through January, the EDC hosts “Habitat & Home” field trips, to teach ecosystem diversity and the importance of healthy habitats. From February through May, the EDC hosts “Down the Drain” field trips. 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

# BENEFIT

- The EDC provides significant benefit to the City and the community by providing public education programs related to the natural environment including storm water pollution prevention. These programs help to fulfill the City's NPDES Storm Water Permit outreach requirements.
- If approved, the Agreement for Funding will allow the Storm Water and Creeks Program to maintain 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.

# 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.
- Questions?