



City of Santa Rosa

Legislation Details

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Title:	REPORT - AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY AND THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA FOR NUTRIENT OFFSET CREDITS (PHOSPHORUS)				

BACKGROUND: The City of Santa Rosa has a zero-net loading for phosphorus in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit. This phosphorus limit is met through the Nutrient Offset Program, where the City develops projects that remove phosphorus from the watershed (Nutrient Offset Projects). The City has successfully completed three Nutrient Offset Projects, preventing approximately 19,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering local waterways in the Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed. The phosphorus credits generated from these projects have either been used or are expired and the City needs to develop new projects to maintain permit compliance in respect to phosphorus.

Staff has been working with the Sonoma County Water Agency to develop a sediment removal and creek restoration project on the Laguna, known as Laguna Restoration Reaches 1 and 2. The estimated credits from this project are approximately 9,000 spread over three years, and an additional 1,000 credits (100 per year) over the next ten years. The actual number of phosphorus credits is still unknown and would be calculated after the project is completed. The cost of each phosphorus credit in this agreement is \$50 per credit which is in alignment with cost per credit from previous projects. This agreement would allow the City to purchase up to a total of 20,000 credits for the sum of \$1,000,000, though the actual amount will most likely be less.

The project where the credits would be generated is located on the Laguna de Santa Rosa upstream and downstream of where the creek crosses under Stony Point Road. The project is removing legacy sediment that contains phosphorus, recontouring the channel to have a deep low-flow channel to prevent the invasive Ludwigia plant from spreading and planting native trees and shrubs along the banks to provide better habitat for aquatic organisms. This project is scheduled to be completed Fall 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended by the Santa Rosa Water Department that the Board, by motion, approve Agreement by and between Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Santa Rosa for Nutrient Offset Credits (Phosphorus) for the Laguna Restoration Reaches 1 and 2 Project.

Sponsors: Board of Public Utilities

Indexes: EIR Previously Certified by Outside Agency

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Staff Report, 2. Attachment 1, 3. Attachment 2, 4. Presentation (added 10/16/19)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
10/17/2019	1	Board of Public Utilities	approved	Pass