

Staff Report

Regular Board Meeting

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: General Manager/CEO

SUBJECT: Consider Approval of Environmental Mitigation Reimbursement Agreement with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager/CEO to execute a Reimbursement Agreement with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District in the not to exceed amount of \$273,787.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

The Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC) required various environmental mitigation measures to mitigate the effect of removing wastewater effluent from the Santa Ana River. Many of the mitigation measures are required to start once the SNRC is operational. San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) is performing other mitigation measures in the Santa Ana River. The proposed agreement will allow SBVMWD to incorporate the SNRC required mitigation through Spring 2025.

Environmental mitigation in the Santa Ana River were required by the United States Fish and Wildlife, State Water Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The requirements were to offset biological impacts due to the reduced flows in the river. The mitigation measures include water quality sampling, invasive weed abatement, aquatic predator control, and several measures to protect the Santa Ana Sucker fish. The District is obligated through the adoption of the SNRC Environmental Impact Report Mitigation Monitoring Report, Streambed Alteration Agreement and various Biological Opinions from the regulatory agencies.

The work is to be done annually by the District until the regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is approved by the regulators. Once the HCP is approved, the SNRC environmental mitigation will be performed along with the other HCP mitigation measures. The HCP is anticipated to be approved within the next few months. The proposed reimbursement agreement will complete the required mitigation measures through March 2025. The work to perform the mitigation measures after March 2025 will be brought back to the Board under a separate HCP agreement or a separate reimbursement agreement.

AGENCY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

I - Implement Effective Solutions Through Visionary Leadership

A. Identify Opportunities to Optimize Natural Resources

IV - Promote Planning, Maintenance and Preservation of District Resources

C. Strengthen Regional, State and National Partnerships

A. Develop Projects and Programs to Ensure Safe and Reliable Services

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This agenda item has been reviewed by the Executive Management Team.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed mitigation measures were not included in the annual budget. Staff is therefore proposing to use Water Operating reserves to pay for the proposed FY 2024-25 measures.

Recommended by:



Michael Moore
General Manager/CEO

Respectfully submitted:



Jeff Noelte
Director of Engineering and Operations

ATTACHMENTS

Agreement

Attachments to Agreement (A-O)