



Guadalupe-Coyote
Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)
An independent special district of the State of California

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TO: GCRCD Board of Directors

FROM: Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director/District Clerk

SUBJECT: *Item 7.4.1: Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors Project*: Discussion and possible action to authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter of commitment and serve as the co- principal investigator responsible for District research activities and fiscal oversight as a community partner sub-awardee for the Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors project, a Climate Action Seed Grant application prepared by Principal Investigator Greg Pasternack, Professor at UC Davis.

DATE: March 2, 2023

Recommendation:

The Board of Directors approve the following motion:

Authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter of commitment on behalf of the District as a community/end user partner for the Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors project, and serve as the co- principal investigator responsible for District research activities and fiscal oversight.

Background:

Dr. Greg Pasternack is a Professor of Land, Air and Water Resources at the University of California, Davis. He does interdisciplinary basic and applied research about streams and watersheds, generally spanning physical and ecological topics, but also dealing with natural and social history. He also advises organizations and industry on complex interdisciplinary problems managing rivers, and was a consultant for GCRCD from 2015 to 2018.

Dr. Pasternack reached out to me to gauge interest in participating as a community/end user partner in an application he was developing for the University of California's Climate Action 2023 Seeds Awards (RFP is included in the Board's packet). His proposal for the *Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors* project has a natural hazard component that addresses vulnerable communities, as well as an ecosystem functions component to develop action maps for potential nature-based solutions projects. As it was a natural fit with the mission and strategic plan for our District, I indicated interest in preliminarily joining the process as a co- principal investigator. Two other resource conservation districts – Napa RCD and Contra Costa RCD –also joined the project, and all three RCDs were included in the letter of intent Dr. Pasternack submitted for consideration (included in Board's packet). On February 9, 2023 he notified us he was invited to move forward with a full proposal.

I met yesterday with Dr. Pasternack to discuss our role in the proposed project, and as the result of our discussion he has allocated GCRCD a preliminary budget of \$50,000 per year for two years to complete tasks related to the project's community engagement and public outreach activities. There is no match

component required on the part of the District. I am in the process of formalizing a scope of work for the budget allocation and it will be submitted as part of his application on March 29, 2023.

Dr. Pasternack has prepared a presentation which will be reviewed during the meeting and is included in the Board's packet.

District Mission and Goals:

The proposed project is in furtherance of the mission of the District, which is “ to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science.” It also is in line with the declared objective of the District to incorporate social and environmental justice objectives within its programs and projects.

The proposed project meets the goals for the following areas of strategic focus set forth within the District's 2019-2024 Long Range Plan:

- *Biodiversity*: Promote biodiversity through the conservation and protection of natural habitats and ecosystems that provide a variety of ecosystem services, such as protection of water resources, maintenance of soil health, appropriate nutrient storage, contributions to climate stability, and improved resiliency after natural disasters.
- *Water Quality*: Contribute to improvements in water quality available for the benefit of agricultural production, wildlife, and aquatic habitat within District watersheds.
- *Climate Change*: Contribute to regional climate change efforts by raising public awareness of the need for individual action, while recognizing and addressing the differences in capacity of individual communities and populations to respond to requests for action.
- *Public Engagement*: Ensure the public is aware of the role watersheds play in maintaining a healthy and resilient community, and the personal importance of preserving agricultural lands and healthy ecosystems.

Summary:

I recommend the District move forward as a community/end-user partner in this project, which is in furtherance of the mission and goals of the District; addresses the District's objective to incorporate social and environmental justice objectives into its programs and projects; and will provide multiple benefits to regional constituents and watershed stakeholders.