



Contra  
Costa  
County

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Julia R. Bueren, Public Works Director/Chief Engineer  
Date: March 1, 2016

Subject: APPROVE Interagency Agreement with the Regents of the University of California, Berkeley

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Chief Engineer, Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, or designee, to execute an Interagency Agreement, including modified indemnification, with the Regents of the University of California, in the amount of \$125,000 to perform a study of Grayson Creek and the larger Walnut Creek Watershed to help implement the Flood Control Districts 50-Year Plan for the period beginning January 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017, in the Walnut Creek Watershed area. (100% Flood Control Zone 3B funds)

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This project is funded by Flood Control Zone 3B (100%)

**BACKGROUND:**

The Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FC District) owns and operates 79 miles of engineered flood control channels (both concrete and earthen channels) that were built throughout the county starting in the 1950s. As these channels age

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☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

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Action of Board On: **03/01/2016** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor  
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor  
Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: March 1, 2016

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Stacey M. Boyd, Deputy

Contact: Mike Carlson  
925-313-2321

and approach the end of their service lives, typically 75 years, the County will face rising maintenance costs and increasing risks from these deteriorating structures. At some point, replacement will

## BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

be necessary. There is also a continual and growing environmental awareness and concern for quality of life that is increasing public interest and support for natural channels that provide ecological, open-space, recreational, and water quality benefits.

Recognizing the need to address the future of aging and deteriorating channels in the coming decades, in 2009 the Board of Supervisors adopted the FC District's "Fifty-Year Plan" policy. The policy calls for concrete channels to be replaced wherever possible by natural channels in response to community preferences for the green space, recreational, ecological, and water-quality benefits of natural channels. The Fifty-Year Plan is the FC District's concept level capital replacement program and recognizes the long time frame needed to plan, acquire rights of way, and implement these types of significant changes.

To successfully implement the Fifty-Year Plan the FC District will need to begin the process of community engagement now, developing alternatives, and assessing benefits and costs. The first step in engaging the community is to analyze Contra Costa County's flood protection systems for opportunity sites where conversion to a natural stream system would be feasible, and to develop outreach materials to inform the public of the concept and benefits of implementing the Fifty-Year Plan.

UC Berkeley, through the Interagency Agreement, will develop a study entitled "Walnut Creek Watershed Opportunities Report" that will identify locations where implementation of Fifty-Year Plan type projects are most feasible and develop land-use tools to assist in project planning and working with cities to preserve the necessary right-of-way. The report will also include a communication plan that the FC District can use to reach out and engage the community and cities where projects are feasible. UC Berkeley will initially conduct work within the Grayson Creek watershed and then move on to complete work within the larger Walnut Creek watershed. This report will help the FC District begin true implementation of the Fifty-Year Plan policy.

The Interagency Agreement includes a mutual indemnification provision. Each party will indemnify the other party for losses that are attributable to the indemnifying party's negligent or willful misconduct in the performance of its obligations under the agreement.

## CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the agreement is not approved, the FC District will not have a study that will identify opportunity areas and develop outreach information to implement the 50-Year Plan.

## CHILDREN'S IMPACT STATEMENT:

## ATTACHMENTS

UCB Agreement