



## SUMMARY REPORT

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**Agenda Date:** 5/21/2024

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**To:** Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Department or Agency Name(s):** Sonoma County Water Agency  
**Staff Name and Phone Number:** Ryan Pedrotti 521-6209  
**Vote Requirement:** Majority  
**Supervisory District(s):** Countywide

**Title:**

Stormwater Education Program for Unincorporated Sonoma County and Ukiah

**Recommended Action:**

Authorize Sonoma County Water Agency's General Manager to execute an agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc., for Sonoma County Water Agency to implement a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2025, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 (West Yost & Associates, Inc., is paying Sonoma County Water Agency) in substantially the form as the draft presented to this Board.

**Executive Summary:**

This item requests authorization for Sonoma County Water Agency's (Sonoma Water) General Manager to execute an agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc. (West Yost) for Sonoma Water to implement a Stormwater Education Program (Program). The Program will include classroom presentations and field trips focusing on stormwater education for students in communities not previously receiving these programs.

**Discussion:**

**HISTORY OF ITEM/BACKGROUND**

Under federal and state water pollution prevention laws and programs, local jurisdictions that operate municipal stormwater systems (including many Sonoma County jurisdictions and Sonoma Water) must obtain permit coverage for discharges of municipal stormwater. These permits, known as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, are issued by the State Water Board or applicable Regional Water Board. Education and outreach are components of the MS4 permit.

The Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) is a coalition of 10 cities, counties, and special districts in the Russian River Watershed that came together in 2003 to coordinate regional programs for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement. Sonoma Water is a member of RRWA and has collaborated with RRWA on multiple regional education projects. The City of Ukiah acts as the administering agency for RRWA and contracts with West Yost to administer and implement RRWA's annual work plans.

West Yost assisted RRWA in meeting the primary objectives of its Proposition 1 grant to develop a regional Stormwater Resource Plan (Plan) for the entire Russian River Watershed. The Plan identified projects that maintain and restore pre-development hydrology and improve water quality by limiting pollutants carried in stormwater runoff from entering local waterways and encourage the use of green infrastructure practices to

manage stormwater runoff. Sonoma Water continues to implement stormwater education programs as part of the Plan.

Sonoma Water's Water Education Program provides classroom visits, field trips, and curriculum materials for teachers and their students. The program's goal is for students to become environmental stewards and informed citizens who can examine the world through an inquisitive, scientific lens.

The Water Education Program services RRWA member agencies who are also members of the Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership, including the cities of Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Rohnert Park, and Cotati, and the Town of Windsor. Sonoma-Marine Saving Water Partnership comprises 13 water utilities in Sonoma and Marin counties collectively addressing regional water efficiency solutions.

#### **SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED**

Under the agreement, Sonoma Water will implement a Stormwater Education Program for students in unincorporated Sonoma County and Ukiah. Services under the agreement include:

- Musical assembly program.
- Third and fourth grade classroom programs and lessons on climate change and storm drain pollution.
- Fifth grade classroom and field trip program.
- Stormwater education programs for multiple grades.

Stormwater education includes teaching students the connection between their streets and homes and local creeks and rivers, what types of pollution end up in waterways, and how pollution impacts water quality for aquatic life. These lessons are led by staff members of the Water Education Program, which includes Program Specialists and Extra-Help Resource Program Technicians and interns.

Under the agreement, Sonoma Water will invoice West Yost for services at the same rates Sonoma Water allocates to its internal projects and programs up to a maximum of \$20,000. Sonoma Water is recovering its actual costs of providing services to West Yost with no mark-up. This agreement covers services through June 30, 2025.

The agreement includes two options to extend the term for a period of one year each. Parties shall agree in writing for each extension.

#### **County Strategic Plan:**

N/A

#### **Sonoma Water Strategic Plan Alignment:**

This item directly supports Sonoma Water's Strategic Plan and is aligned with the following goal, strategy, and action item.

Goal: 6. Community Engagement - Engage with the community to build understanding, trust, and support for projects and programs.

Strategy: 6.2 Build collaborative partnerships, trust, and long-term relationships with the community through proactive communication and education.

Action Item: 6.2.3 Continue Partnerships with organizations such as Russian River Watershed Association and

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Sonoma Clean Power to provide education programs to students outside Sonoma Water's water supply service area.

Sonoma Water's Stormwater Education Program includes teaching students the connection between their streets and homes and local creeks and rivers, what types of pollution end up in waterways, and how pollution impacts water quality for aquatic life.□

**Racial Equity:**

**Was this item identified as an opportunity to apply the Racial Equity Toolkit?**

No

**Prior Board Actions:**

06/06/2023: Approved agreement between Sonoma Water and West Yost & Associates, Inc., for implementation of a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$20,000 (paid to Sonoma Water by West Yost).

07/19/2022: Approved agreement between Sonoma Water and West Yost & Associates, Inc., for implementation of a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$20,000 (paid to Sonoma Water by West Yost).

08/17/2021: Approved agreement between Sonoma Water and West Yost & Associates, Inc., for implementation of a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2022, in the amount of \$20,000 (paid to Sonoma Water by West Yost).

06/09/2020: Approved agreement between Sonoma Water and West Yost & Associates, Inc., for implementation of a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2021, in the amount of \$30,000 (paid to Sonoma Water by West Yost).

11/19/2019: Approved agreement between Sonoma Water and West Yost & Associates, Inc., for implementation of a Stormwater Education Program through June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$40,000 (paid to Sonoma Water by West Yost).

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>FY23-24 Adopted</b>	<b>FY24-25 Projected</b>	<b>FY25-26 Projected</b>
Budgeted Expenses		\$20,000	
Additional Appropriation Requested			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>	
<b>Funding Sources</b>			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other		\$20,000	
Use of Fund Balance			
General Fund Contingencies			
<b>Total Sources</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>	

**Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:**

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Appropriations of \$20,000 will be budgeted in FY 2024/2025 in the Russian River Projects Fund. Offsetting revenue in the amount of \$20,000 will come from West Yost & Associates, Inc.

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)

**Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Draft Agreement

**Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:**

None