



Legislation Text

File #: 2021-1252, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency
Department or Agency Name(s): Sonoma County Water Agency
Staff Name and Phone Number: Kevin Booker 707-521-1865
Vote Requirement: Majority
Supervisory District(s): Countywide

Title:

FY 21/22 Joint Funding Agreement with U.S. Geological Survey

Recommended Action:

Approve and authorize the Sonoma County Water Agency's General Manager to execute a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for FY 21/22 to maintain stream gages in the Russian River, Sonoma Creek, and the Petaluma River watersheds, in the amount of \$662,690.

Executive Summary:

This agenda item is to request approval for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 funding, and for continued funding for the collection and monitoring of flow data used by the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and other local public and private entities/individuals for stream gages in the Russian River, Sonoma Creek, and the Petaluma River watersheds.

Water levels (flow and stage) are measured by multiple stream gages in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. The data from these gages are transmitted to USGS computers within 1 hour of measurement. The data is quality assured and made available online by USGS to Sonoma Water and other local public and private entities/individuals. Sonoma Water uses the data collected for planning and forecasting for water supply, environmental, and flood management purposes. Other users of the data include emergency responders, water managers, environmental and transportation agencies, universities, utilities, recreational enthusiasts, and consulting firms.

Discussion:

The USGS Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program supports the collection and (or) delivery of both streamflow and water-level information for more than 8,500 sites (continuous or partial record) and water-level information alone for more than 1,700 additional sites throughout the United States. The data is served online-most in near real time, to meet the many diverse needs. Water levels are measured by more than 10,000 gages; the data is typically transmitted to USGS computers within 1 hour of measurement. The data is quality assured and made available online to local public and private entities/individuals. Data users include emergency responders, water managers, environmental and transportation agencies, universities, utilities, recreational enthusiasts, and consulting firms. The cost to monitor the various gages has increased due to an increase in USGS staffing costs and, additional stream gaging, groundwater monitoring, and water quality monitoring.

Data collected from the stream gages funded by Sonoma Water are used for:

1. Planning, forecasting, and warning about floods and droughts
2. Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling
3. Monitoring environmental conditions to protect aquatic habitats
4. Forecast Informed Reservation Operations (FIRO)
5. Assessing water quality and regulating pollutant discharges
6. Determining if streams are safe for recreational activities
7. Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information System (AQPI) radars and National Water Model Water Quality Analysis

Data from these sites, along with Sonoma Water maintained sites, act as an early warning monitoring system. In addition, the data is also increasingly critical to California Nevada River Forecast Center and their river forecasts and to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through AQPI.

Additional monitoring has been added to the FY 21/22 agreement, including a gage on Nathanson Creek, groundwater monitoring, and additional water quality analysis on gages in the Russian River watershed.

Strategic Plan:

This item directly support the County's Five-year Strategic Plan and is aligned with the following pillar, goal, and objective.

Pillar: Climate Action and Resiliency

Goal: Goal 5: Maximize opportunities for mitigation of climate change and adaptation through land conservation work and land use policies

Objective: Objective 1: Align the Board of Supervisor's strategic priorities, policy, and operational goals with funding and resources.

Sonoma County Water Agency Strategic Plan Alignment:

Climate Change, Goal 1: Continuing improving our ability to respond and adapt to climate change.

Data from these sites, along with Sonoma Water maintained sites can act as an early warning monitoring system. In addition, this data can assist Sonoma Water when looking at the impact of climate change on water supply.

Prior Board Actions:

11/17/2020: Approve and authorize the Sonoma County Water Agency's General Manager to execute a Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for FY 20/21.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 21-22 Adopted	FY22-23 Projected	FY 23-24 Projected
Budgeted Expenses	662,690		
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures	\$662,690		
Funding Sources			

General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other	662,690		
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources	\$662,690		

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

Budgeted amount of \$662,690 is available from FY 2021/2022 appropriations for the Flood Control Zone 1A Fund (\$150,000), Flood Control Zone 3A Fund (\$70,800), Flood Control Zone 5A Fund (\$7,000), Warm Spring Dam Fund (\$70,000), and the Russian River Projects Fund (\$364,890). No additional appropriation is required.

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:

None

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

None