



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

F-2

For the meeting of: July 18, 2017

Date: July 10, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: B Thomas K. Mattson, Public Works Director

Subject: Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receives a staff report and remarks from the executive director of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the status of the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program; and
2. Authorizes the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the attached letter requesting termination of the grant agreement for the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

State Water Resources Control Board

DISCUSSION:

On May 24, 2016, the Board authorized Public Works to execute a grant agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board to initiate and lead the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program through June 2018. The Stewardship Program was designed to provide a non-regulatory framework for supporting projects and activities to improve watershed conditions and achieve the goals of the sediment Total Maximum Daily Load for the Upper Elk River. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Water Quality Board"), University of California Cooperative Extension, CalTrout, USDA-Natural

Prepared by Hank Seemann

CAO Approval Karen Clower

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel Sm Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

☐ Consent
☒ Departmental
☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. M-2

Meeting of: May 24, 2016

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson

Seconded by Supervisor Bohn

And unanimously carried by those members present,

The Board hereby adopts the recommended action

Contained in this report.

Dated: July 18, 2017
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

By: Bohn Eke

Resources Conservation Service, and Public Works composed the Stewardship Program's steering committee. The Stewardship Program was intended to complement the Elk River Recovery Assessment, which is a technical study assessing the feasibility of remediation and restoration scenarios. The Recovery Assessment was started in 2014 and led by CalTrout, with funding from the State Water Resources Control Board and Coastal Conservancy.

The first public meeting for the Stewardship Program was held on June 30, 2016. Working groups were established to focus on sediment remediation, water supplies, road access, and science and monitoring. Information collection, public outreach, and organizational efforts were initiated to develop a collaborative planning process for future implementation actions. Public Works worked with the steering committee in an attempt to integrate the sediment remediation working group of the Stewardship Program with the Recovery Assessment. In January 2017, Public Works concluded that the Stewardship Program was not on track to fulfill its purpose and goals, and notified the steering committee that the County of Humboldt was no longer willing to serve as the program sponsor. In the view of Public Works, efforts over six months to integrate the Stewardship Program and Recovery Assessment were not successful and had reached an impasse. Specifically, there was an inability to link the tasks and timelines of the two initiatives; disagreement on technical issues; and irreconcilable differences regarding expectations for stakeholder engagement. The University of California Cooperative Extension also plans to discontinue participation in the program.

The Water Quality Board has indicated an intent to continue the Stewardship Program in a modified form yet to be determined. Public Works will be reimbursed for expenditures made through December 31, 2016. Public Works recommends that the Board authorize the Chair to sign the attached letter requesting termination of the grant agreement for the Stewardship Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Total expenses for the Stewardship Program from July 1 through December 31, 2016, were \$48,609.90. These expenses have been invoiced to the State Water Resources Control Board and approved for payment. Receipt of payment is expected by the end of July 2017. Accordingly, the proposed action will not have an impact on the Humboldt County General Fund.

Public Works participated in this effort in order to advance three of the County's core roles (provide for and maintain infrastructure, create opportunities for improved safety and health, and protect vulnerable populations).

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

State Water Resources Control Board; University of California Cooperative Extension; North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter requesting termination of the grant agreement for the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

July 18, 2017

Ms. Amy Sunahara, Program Analyst
Division of Financial Assistance
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 17th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request to Terminate Grant Agreement No. D1513101

Dear Ms. Sunahara:

The County of Humboldt requests termination of Grant Agreement No. D1513101 for the Elk River Watershed Stewardship Program. The County's Department of Public Works has been in communication with staff from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on this matter, and this request reflects a consensus between the two agencies. Three invoices have been submitted for the billing period June 8, 2016, through December 31, 2016, for a total of \$48,609.90. No additional invoices will be submitted.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC: Charles Striplen, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Public Works (Hank Seemann)