

MENDOCINO
COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

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January 18, 2012

Roger Mobley, Acting Director of Building and Planning Services
Mendocino County
501 Low Gap Road, Rm. 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

Reference: Operational Funding for Mendocino County Resource Conservation
District FY 2011-12

Dear Roger:

As requested by the Executive Office of Mendocino County, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) is providing the following information with regards to the projects and project development, the County's operational funding will complement:

1. Russian River Invasives Removal: In September, staff from MCRCD, MCWA, and the Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner's office floated the main stem Russian River from the West Fork to Hopland and GPS'ed 166 sites. 140 sites were riparian and aquatic invasive species and the remainder were instream hazards, including multiple tire dumps, failing erosion control structures, and other navigation obstructions. MCRCD will develop several specific projects and actively pursue funding through state agencies, including the Wildlife Conservation Board and the Cal Recycle program, to remove hazardous waste, and several highly invasive species including: *Ludwigia* (water primrose), *Arundo donax* (giant reed), *Vinca major* (periwinkle). These species affect water quality, water quantity, and fish habitat.
2. Fish Passage Barrier Removal: MCRCD has identified several fish passage barriers within the Russian River watershed to be removed, including: Orrs Creek, McNab Creek, and Mill Creek in Talmage. MCRCD will pursue funding for the design and removal of these barriers. Fish passage barriers in the Russian River prevent salmonids from reaching spawning and rearing habitat, thus contributing to the decline of steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.
3. National Marine Fisheries Steelhead Recovery Plan: MCRCD staff will participate in the development of the Steelhead Recovery plan for the Central Coast which includes the Upper Russian River. MCRCD participation provides local input for restoration projects that otherwise may be omitted. Including local projects in the Plan will allow for future funding in the watershed from both State and Federal agencies.
4. MCRCD is a participant in the development of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Boards's Irrigated Lands Program. As a stakeholder, MCRCD will work with other entities on the North Coast to identify Best Management Practices to reduce runoff from irrigated lands to improve water quality. These practices will

directly impact the agricultural community within the county. The County Agricultural Commissioner was also a participant in this process, and with his recent departure from his position, MCRCD's continued participation ensures Mendocino County has a voice, and issues specific to our county are being addressed.

5. MCRCD is conducting outreach and working with landowners in the Navarro River watershed to develop projects that will benefit Coho salmon, a State and Federal listed endangered species. We will pursue project funding from DFG in the spring, and EPA 319(h) funding next summer/fall.
6. Lastly, MCRCD is pursuing the countywide Coordinated Permitting Program. Funding from SWRCB is contributing to the development of the CEQA document, but additional funds will be required to negotiate agreements with the NCRWQCB for the waste discharge permit (401), US Army Corps of Engineers for the 404 permit, and DFG for the Streambed Alteration Permits (1600's). The Navarro River program was the second Coordinated Permitting Program in the State of California, and one of its most successful. Once the expanded countywide program is in place, it may be adapted by MCDOT to streamline the permitting process for basic and routine road maintenance projects.

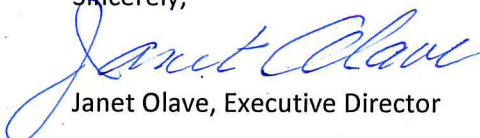
The table below is an estimate of how MCRCD plans to utilize the County's contribution towards our operational funding:

Project	County Funding
RR Invasives Removal Project Development	\$6,200.00
Fish Passage Barrier Removal	\$3,500.00
NMFS Steelhead Recovery Program	\$3,000.00
Irrigated Lands Program	\$2,500.00
Coho Salmon Project Development	\$4,000.00
Coordinated Permitting	\$6,000.00
Total	\$25,200.00

Aside from the annual contribution from the County, MCRCD funds its staff and programs with grants and mitigation projects. Utilizing the County's contribution to help develop the above listed projects, and apply for grants to implement them, will mean a conservative, estimated additional \$2m of project money in the county, or a return of investment of \$76:\$1.

MCRCD will submit quarterly invoices, beginning July 2011 through June 2012. Additionally, we will provide a short status report on each task through project completion.

Sincerely,


Janet Olave, Executive Director