



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 4, 2108**

DEPARTMENT: **PUBLIC WORKS**

FROM: **JIM SANDOVAL, CITY ENGINEER/ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

TITLE: **AGREEMENT SUPPORTING THE SALINAS RIVER STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution that approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Salinas and the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Salinas has focused attention and resources on flood mitigation and disaster relief and the work conducted in the Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program serves as a valuable collaboration benefitting the community as a whole. Because the City owns land adjacent to the Salinas River, it is therefore recommended that the City become a landowner member of the Association by approving an Agreement in the amount of \$30,000 to cover the first two years (or \$15,000 per year).

BACKGROUND:

After the catastrophic floods of 1995, Salinas River landowners organized and funded work to prevent flooding and damage to agricultural lands and communities along the river with assistance from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA). From 2008 to 2014, landowners and growers worked closely with the MCWRA and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County and The Nature Conservancy to revise their Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) for multiple-benefit management of Salinas River lands leading to a river management unit approach. Particular emphasis is on Arundo removal from the Salinas River.

Landowners and growers along the river have spent more than \$250,000 from 2014-2017 to perform work, pay for permitting and conduct biomonitoring on the Salinas River in Monterey County. At the same time, local and state government and project partners have contributed millions of dollars in matching expenditures to support this project and its long-term planning.

The Salinas River Channel Stream Maintenance Program's River Management Unit Association, Inc. was formed in July 2017 to fund and secure funding for floodplain management, public infrastructure safety and maintenance, and stream maintenance activities by landowner and

operator members to improve the conditions for all farming and public facilities along the Salinas River in Monterey County, California.

The City of Salinas and the Salinas River Channel Stream Maintenance Program's River Management Unit Association, Inc. (Association), have the common interest in the successful implementation of Salinas River Stream Maintenance Program and the sustainable management of riverine lands in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The City of Salinas will become a landowner member of the Association, as it owns and operates Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility which is located along the mainstem of the Salinas River. The enrolling of this parcel (APN 207-201-001) and any other applicable land within 5-10 year flood range, is consistent with the current program.

The City of Salinas will support the organization, on behalf of its residents, with an annual payment of \$15,000, annually payable in October, beginning in 2018 with an initial payment of \$15,000 fulfill the City's 2017 obligation in arrears. This payment will be used to support stream maintenance activities in the Salinas River, including vegetation management, sediment removal, and Arundo eradication by being a landowner member. This payment will also contribute towards annual program administration and long-term program monitoring and modeling in cooperation with other river landowner members of the Association. These activities support program outcomes by documenting stream maintenance activities and conditions following each winter. This information will help in maintaining the stream maintenance program and associated permits into the future and will allow the Association to continue educating state and federal agencies on the importance of this program.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Approval of the Agreement supports flood mitigation and disaster relief efforts, which aligns with the City's goals of a well-planned city and excellent infrastructure.

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

This Agreement will be administered by the Public Works Department in conjunction with the Finance Department, as necessary to appropriate funding.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Salinas River Maintenance Program CIP project (9130) was established and approved in the FY 2018-19 budget. Current funding of \$30,000 will enable City's membership through October 2019. Continuing the membership thereafter will require council approval for each additional year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Agreement