



Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition

Advocates for living streams

April 8, 2018

Members of the Board of Directors
Melanie Richardson, COO, Watersheds
Nina Hawk, COO, Water Utility
Santa Clara Valley Water District
By email

Re: Final Proposal

Premise: The Dec 2017 report of Dr. Jerry Smith indicating the “potential extirpation” (i.e.local extinction) of steelhead trout on Coyote Creek warrants a strong and timely response from the Water District Board.

Goal: Complete the barrier removals on Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek by FY23 instead of the unknown date after FY23 indicated in the CIP.

Funding Needed: Rescheduling \$51.4 million from years after FY 23 to the years FY19 to FY23 to fund Ogier Ponds, Metcalf Ponds, Singleton Road on the Coyote, Almaden Lake Creek Lake Separation and Alamitos Drop Structure on the Guadalupe and fish passage improvements on Stevens Creek.

Strategy:

1. Direct staff to realign priorities for the CIP for 3.5%-4.5% of the total Water Utility capital expenditure spending during FY 19 to FY 23 so as to make available the additional \$54.4 million for the migration barrier projects on Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek fish migration barrier remediation projects over those 5 years.
2. Direct staff to submit a request to the State Water Board to amend the District’s Water Rights licenses to allow funding of these projects through the Water Utility as an interim step towards the eventual resolution of the FAHCE Water Rights Complaint.
3. Direct staff to negotiate cost recovery agreements with the City of San Jose and County of Santa Clara to recover a portion of the costs for Singleton Road and Ogier Ponds.

Basis for Recommendation

Existing CIP of Feb 27, 2018

	FY 18	FY19	FY20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	Thru FY23	Future	
Ogier Ponds					2	2	4	22	No completion date
Almaden Lake	0.74	1.2	9.1	9.4	9.7	0	30.1	0	Completion FY22
Metcalf Ponds				2.3	2.4	2.5	7.2	25	No completion date
Singleton Road							0		Not included in CIP
Alamitos Drop Structure							0		Not included in CIP
Stevens Creek Fish Passage				2.3	7.2	3.8	13.3	7.0	No completion date
FAHCE Implementation				4.7	4.4	14.7	23.8	121,299	
Total	0.74	1.2	9.1	14	21.3	8.3	54.64	121,331	

Of the six (6) specific projects, only one has projected completion date.

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Creeks Coalition Proposal April 10, 2018

	FY 18	FY19	FY20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	Thru FY23	Future	
Ogier Ponds		2.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	22.0	0	FY22
Almaden Lake	0.74	1.2	9.1	9.4	9.7	0	30.1	0	FY22
Alamitos Drop Structure					3.0		3.0	0	FY22
Metcalf Ponds		2.3	2.4	5.8	6.8	7.7	25	0	FY23
Singleton Road			4.5	1.4			5.9	0	FY21
Stevens Creek Fish Passage			2.3	2.4	6	9.3	20.0		FY23
Total	0.74	5.5	20.3	25	33.5	21	106.04	0	

Differences

The Creeks Coalition proposal would require additional funding in the following years:

	FY 18	FY19	FY20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Accelerated Funding Needed	0	4.3	11.2	11	12.2	12.7

Percent of Total Capital Funding For Water Utility

FY 19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
4.3	11.2	11	12.2	12.7
119.7	261.8	244	285	352.3
3.6%	4.3%	4.5%	4.3%	3.6%

In essence, realign priorities of 3.5 to 4.5% of Total Water Utility Capital Projects.

There are other options such as a 0.5% increase in Water Rates each year for the next 4 to 8 years, but we believe that rescheduling is the preferable alternative.

Sincerely,

Richard McMurtry

Richard McMurtry
Secretary-Treasurer