

STAFF REPORT

TO: SMVWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, Interim General Manager

DATE: January 24, 2024

RE: Renewal of Joint Funding Agreement with USGS for Cooperative Water Resources Program

Background:

The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, (USGS) has provided the final costs for continuation of the cooperative water resources program for the period of October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Through this agreement, USGS produces and reports a continuous record of discharge at streamflow gaging stations. The SMVWCD portion of the program costs are \$35,800 and the USGS contribution is \$14,600, for a combined total program cost of \$50,400. These costs are further defined in Attachment 1 of the USGS letter.

The scope of work is included as Attachment 2 and details the equipment and processes used to collect and calculate flow data and water level measurements.

Approval of the joint funding agreement will allow USGS's work to continue for another year. The District's cost share of the 2022-23 agreement was \$34,820, or approximately \$1,000 less than the cost for 2023-24. District counsel has approved the agreement as to form.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board consider approval of the joint funding agreement with USGS for the cooperative water resources program.

Attachments:

- USGS Letter Agreement with detailed summary and scope of work



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
California Water Science Center
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

December 13, 2023

Mr. Keith Hadick
Director Div. 3, President
Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 364
Santa Maria, CA 93456

Dear Mr. Hadick:

This letter finalizes the costs of the cooperative water resources program outlined in Attachment 1 during the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$35,800 from your agency. U.S. Geological Survey contributions for this agreement are \$14,600 for a combined total of \$50,400. If you are in agreement with this proposed program, please return the fully executed signed copy to CAgagADMIN@usgs.gov (preferred) or send one fully executed paper copy to Cade Castro at the address in the letter head.

Attachment 2 describes the scope of work.

Federal law requires that we have a signed agreement before we start or continue work. Please return the signed agreement at your earliest convenience. If, for any reason, the agreement cannot be signed, please contact Ben Glass by phone number (805) 260-8135 or email brglass@usgs.gov to make alternative arrangements.

This is a fixed cost agreement to be billed quarterly via Down Payment Request (automated Form DI-1040). Please allow 30-days from the end of the billing period for issuance of the bill. If you experience any problems with your invoice(s), please contact Cade Castro at phone number (970) 462-2034 or email at ccastro@usgs.gov.

The results of all work performed under this agreement will be available for publication by the U.S. Geological Survey. We look forward to continuing this and future cooperative efforts in these mutually beneficial water resources studies.

Sincerely,

Michelle Shouse
Acting Director, USGS California Water Science
Center

Enclosure
Attachment 1 – Detailed Summary
Attachment 2 – Scope of work

**Form 9-1366
(May 2018)**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Joint Funding Agreement
FOR
Water Resource Investigations**

**Customer #: 600000820
Agreement #: 24ZGJFA06000045
Project #: ZG00GZV
TIN #: 77-0324200**

Fixed Cost Agreement YES[X] NO[]

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into as of the October 1, 2023, by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, California Water Science Center, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, party of the first part, and the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District party of the second part.

1. The parties hereto agree that subject to the availability of appropriations and in accordance with their respective authorities there shall be maintained in cooperation Water Resource Investigations (per attachment), herein called the program. The USGS legal authority is 43 USC 36C; 43 USC 50, and 43 USC 50b.

2. The following amounts shall be contributed to cover all of the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to this program. 2(b) include In-Kind-Services in the amount of \$0.00

- (a) \$14,600 by the party of the first part during the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024
- (b) \$35,800 by the party of the second part during the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024
- (c) Contributions are provided by the party of the first part through other USGS regional or national programs, in the amount of: \$0

Description of the USGS regional/national program:

- (d) Additional or reduced amounts by each party during the above period or succeeding periods as may be determined by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.
- (e) The performance period may be changed by mutual agreement and set forth in an exchange of letters between the parties.

3. The costs of this program may be paid by either party in conformity with the laws and regulations respectively governing each party.

4. The field and analytical work pertaining to this program shall be under the direction of or subject to periodic review by an authorized representative of the party of the first part.

5. The areas to be included in the program shall be determined by mutual agreement between the parties hereto or their authorized representatives. The methods employed in the field and office shall be those adopted by the party of the first part to insure the required standards of accuracy subject to modification by mutual agreement.

6. During the course of this program, all field and analytical work of either party pertaining to this program shall be open to the inspection of the other party, and if the work is not being carried on in a mutually satisfactory manner, either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party.

7. The original records resulting from this program will be deposited in the office of origin of those records. Upon request, copies of the original records will be provided to the office of the other party.

8. The maps, records or reports resulting from this program shall be made available to the public as promptly as possible. The maps, records or reports normally will be published by the party of the first part. However, the party of the second part reserves the right to publish the results of this program, and if already published by the party of the first part shall, upon request, be furnished by the party of the first part, at cost, impressions suitable for purposes of reproduction similar to that for which the original copy was prepared. The maps, records or reports published by either party shall contain a statement of the cooperative relations between the parties. The Parties acknowledge that scientific information and data developed as a result of the Scope of Work (SOW) are subject to applicable USGS review, approval, and release requirements, which are available on the USGS Fundamental Science Practices website (<https://www2.usgs.gov/fsp/>).

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Joint Funding Agreement
FOR

Customer #: 600000820
Agreement #: 24ZGJFA06000045
Project #: ZG00GZV
TIN #: 77-0324200

Water Resource Investigations

9. Billing for this agreement will be rendered quarterly. Invoices not paid within 60 days from the billing date will bear Interest, Penalties, and Administrative cost at the annual rate pursuant the Debt Collection Act of 1982, (codified at 31 U.S.C. § 3717) established by the U.S. Treasury.

USGS Technical Point of Contact

Name: Ben Glass
Supervisory Hydrologic Technician
Address: 3130 Skyway Drive
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Telephone: (805) 260-8135
Fax: (805) 928-9220
Email: brglass@usgs.gov

Customer Technical Point of Contact

Name: Casey Conrad
Treasurer
Address: P.O. Box 364
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Telephone:
Fax:
Email: cconrad@smvwcd.org

USGS Billing Point of Contact

Name: Cade Castro
Budget Analyst
Address: 6000 J Street Placer Hall
Sacramento CA, 95819
Telephone: (970) 462-2034
Fax:
Email: ccastro@usgs.gov

Customer Billing Point of Contact

Name: Jaamon Frazier
Secretary
Address: P.O. Box 364
Santa Maria, CA 93456
Telephone:
Fax:
Email: districtoffice@smvwcd.org

U.S. Geological Survey
United States
Department of Interior

Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District

Signature

Signatures

By _____ Date: _____
Name: Michelle Shouse
Title: Acting Director, USGS California Water
Science Center

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

By _____ Date: _____
Name:
Title:

Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District
Attachment for 24ZGJFA06000045
2023-10-01 to 2024-09-30

SURFACE WATER								
SITE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CODE	NO. UNITS	DIFF FACTOR	USGS FUNDS	CUST. CASH	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
11137900	HUASNA R NR ARROYO GRANDE CA Full Range Streamflow Station	QCONT	1	1	\$7,300	\$17,900		
				SW Total:				\$25,200
11140000	SISQUOC R NR GAREY Full Range Streamflow Station	QCONT	1	1	\$7,300	\$17,900		
				SW Total:				\$25,200
				SW Grand Total:	\$14,600	\$35,800		\$50,400

SUMMARY FOR				
TYPE	USGS FUNDS	CUST. CASH	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
SURFACE WATER (SW)	\$14,600	\$35,800		\$50,400
GRAND TOTAL				\$50,400

Attachment 2

SCOPE OF WORK

In cooperation with the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District, the USGS California Water Science Center (CA WSC) produces and reports a continuous record of discharge at streamflow gaging stations. To accomplish this work, the USGS operates and maintains sensors and transmitting data loggers, develops flow ratings from measurements and sensor data, and computes continuous records of flow and water level data. All USGS services described shall be conducted by individuals provided with on the job, and formal training. Data will be collected following USGS guidelines described in USGS Techniques and Methods reports.

USGS streamgage data collection, processing, computation, and publication of stage and discharge data includes:

- high-water peaks and point-of-zero flow readings
- hourly transmission of real-time (15-minute) collection of data by GOES satellite
- computation of instantaneous and daily mean discharge data using the stage-discharge relation for each streamgaging station
- site visits to each streamgaging station every 6 to 8 weeks, or as needed, to service, maintain, verify, and calibrate the on-site recording and transmission equipment.
- Measurements of in-stream discharge made every 6 to 8 weeks, or as needed, to develop and/or verify the stage-discharge relation (rating curve), which can be affected by flood events, erosion, deposition, changes in vegetation, and human or animal interference. These sites are often measured weekly when flowing to ensure definition of sand channel changes.
- Establishment and maintenance of a surveyed, relative gage datum for each streamgaging station in accordance with standard USGS protocols as a reference for assessment of site changes due to erosion, deposition, subsidence, uplift, and human or animal interference.
- Standard maintenance of equipment, including replacement, upgrade, and repair, is the responsibility of the USGS, including vandalism that is minimal (one minor incident every three years). The responsibility for any non-standard maintenance of equipment will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with all parties.

USGS streamgage data processing and publication includes:

- Continuously recorded data and data collected during site visits are processed and analyzed in accordance with standard USGS procedures. These data are served to the public as provisional until final review and approval for annual publication.
- peer review during an approval and audit process for each record
- Data are stored and maintained for perpetuity by the USGS and available to the public on NWISWeb.