



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
Administration
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: June 9, 2020
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
By: Vanessa Lieberman, Senior Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / Grant Agreement / Foresthill Fire Protection District

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Grant Agreement with Foresthill Fire Protection District, subject to County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, in the amount of \$19,148.00 to fund a portion of its operations that occur in proximity to the Middle Fork Project area.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, Placer County and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) created the Joint Powers Authority (Middle Fork Project Financing Authority or MFPFA) for the Middle Fork Project (MFP) to ensure that it would be operated, protected, and improved. Shortly after formation of the MFPFA, a series of studies were performed as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and California State Water Board (SWB) re-licensing process. One of the studies examined the recreation usage of certain MFP related recreation facilities, and identified potential and additional visitation increases to those facilities after improvements were made. It is on that basis that any nexus relationships are established.

On October 17, 2013, PCWA and the County signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure that services to protect and enhance the MFP would continue throughout the life of the project. Staff has developed budget item funding that will be available to perform those various services, such as public safety (Sheriff and fire) and public accessibility services (road repair, fuel reduction maintenance, and communications upgrades). Funding for the services includes the designation of reserve funds to accommodate the anticipated growth in recreational usage as the MFP begins to implement new flows and opportunities per the new FERC license agreement. Staff expects the license agreement to be finalized in 2020.

The Foresthill Fire Protection District (FHFPD) provides a portion of the public safety services in the MFP area. The FERC related studies determined that this year's amount to be granted to FHFPD, including annual adjustments, is \$19,148.00. This Grant Agreement is to be enacted for a term of one year (with annual extensions) until the SWB and FERC relicensing process has been concluded and all permanent conditions have been agreed upon. At that time, an agreement that reflects those conditions and terms will be brought back to the Board for approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action does not constitute a "Project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15378 (a) and (b)(5) because it is an administrative action that does not result in any direct or physical change in the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for MFP nexus projects is included in the Community and Agency Support Appropriation in the FY2020-21 Proposed Budget. The resources for this Agreement are to be paid from a fund that has been established and fully funded from the MOA between the County and PCWA for costs related to the MFP. This Agreement can be renewed annually with funding available pursuant to the Middle Fork Project Memorandum of Agreement with Placer County Water Agency, at no net County cost.

On File with Clerk of the Board: FHFPD Grant Agreement