

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Jim Venable

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** May 18, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a **new Project Agreement** (Agreement #2) with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) United States Department of Agriculture.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors join with me to approve the attached **new Project Agreement** (Agreement #2) with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) United States Department of Agriculture.

**BACKGROUND:** On April 13, 2004 this Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program for them to assist us with the overwhelming dead and dying tree removal process. The MOU drafted by NRCS outlined a general plan of work to implement the EWP program. Detailed plans were to be developed with separate "project agreements" for those endeavors that are mutually agreed upon.

On May 6, 2004 NRCS State Conservationist Chuck Bell declared the current tree mortality emergency and wildfire threat to be an "exigency situation" (equivalent to extreme emergency) allowing NRCS to take action to help accelerate the work. Subsequent meetings have been held between my staff, our Fire Department personnel and NRCS to find ways to speed up the process of the EWP and the removal of dead trees and make recommendations to that end. Their recommendations include development of this additional Project Agreement (Agreement #2) with NRCS that will provide \$2,000,000 directly to the County to be administered through our Fire Department. This money will be used to supplement County contracts where trees are already marked and ready to be removed but simply lack funding to move forward. Therefore, I am bringing this recommendation forward and I urge my colleagues on this Board to approve this Project Agreement so that we can move ahead in a cooperative relationship with the NRCS.

Jim Venable, Supervisor Third District

JV:msm

Prev.Agn.ref.  
FORM 11(Rev 1/99)

Dist. All

AGENDA NO.

ATTACHMENTS FILED  
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

3.42