

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



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: April 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Approval of an amendment to an existing 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 in approving the attached amendment to the existing Project Agreement (Agreement #1) with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) United States Department of Agriculture.

BACKGROUND:

On April 13, 2004, this Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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 11, 2004, this Board approved an initial Project Agreement (Agreement #1) with NRCS for \$600,000. Since that time, subsequent meetings have been held between my staff, our Fire Department personnel and NRCS. The focus of the meetings has been to find ways to accelerate implementation of the EWP and the removal of dead trees and make recommendations to that end. I am, therefore, asking that the Board approve this second amendment to the existing Project Agreement, and increase the amount of the Agreement to \$15,000,000 to help expedite the tree removal by eliminating the number of times agreements would need to come back before this Board. I urge my colleagues on this Board to approve this amendment to the existing Project Agreement so that we can move ahead in a cooperative relationship with the NRCS.



Jeff Stone
Supervisor
Third District

JS:vc

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