



**Cochise County
Community Development
Highway and Floodplain Division**

Public Programs...Personal Service
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Executive Summary: Grant Amendment No. 1 with The Nature Conservancy

On December 15, 2015 the Flood Control District Board approved a grant award from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to support recharge related projects: the ephemeral streamflow monitoring project and moving forward with investigation and preliminary design for the next approved recharge project in the Upper San Pedro River Watershed.

That grant award was for \$70,375, with \$29,515 earmarked by TNC for the streamflow monitoring and the remaining \$40,860 earmarked for the next phase of engineering for the next approved recharge project.

The Flood Control District Board approved a contract for the streamflow monitoring. The equipment has been installed and data is being collected. The reports required by the contract will better quantify how much runoff from upstream areas is actually making it to the Palominas Recharge Project and to potential recharge project sites on Riverstone and Bella Vista properties.

At the time of the original grant to the FCD the next recharge project for the watershed had not been decided. The CCRN (Cochise Conservation and Recharge Network) had recently formed to guide and coordinate efforts of those in the sub-basin who had ongoing projects on the ground and funding. Cochise County is a founding member of CCRN. Recently the CCRN determined that the next feasible recharge project that was ready to move to the next step of design was the Bella Vista/Coyote Wash Urban Enhanced Runoff project. As you recall, we have already completed Phase I engineering and groundwater modeling for that project with our partners City of Sierra Vista and The Nature Conservancy. Cochise County has been holding the first grant award until now.

Now TNC has additional funding that can be put toward recharge related projects. They propose an amendment to the grant that would add an additional \$62,575 to be used as follows:

1. adding to the streamflow monitoring portion \$11,500 for groundwater monitoring in addition to the streamflow monitoring already in place. If approved FCD will amend the contract in place to add this amount and this task.
2. Adding to the recharge project funding an additional \$51,075 for Phase II site investigation and preliminary engineering.
3. The proposed amendment also extends the grant period from its previous end date of December 23, 2016 to August 30, 2017.

I recommend that the FCD Board accept this grant amendment that will add to our regional ability to better determine the design criteria for future projects and move the next recharge project to the next stage. I am also a member of the CCRN Technical committee who meets once a month to assess progress on these projects, focus our available resources, meet the requirements of our grantors and supervise design, construction, monitoring and reporting of these projects.

The many water conservation projects in this area, the Palominas Recharge Project and future recharge projects all inform and provide templates for similar projects not only in other parts of Cochise County, but all over the arid west.

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