



Cochise County

Community Development

Highway and Floodplain Division

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

August 3, 2018

To: Flood Control District Board of Directors

From: Joaquin Solis, P.E., Floodplain Engineer

Subject: Accept an additional \$50,000 in grant funding from The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for the existing cooperative grant and contribution agreement for the Buena School Watershed Plan, Environmental Assessment and Engineering Design (aka Bella Vista Urban Enhanced Runoff Recharge Project).

Recommendation: Approve additional grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 to increase the original NRCS agreement to \$550,000.

Background: On August 25, 2017 Cochise County Highway & Floodplain applied for initial grant funding from the NRCS in the approximate amount of \$8M to engineer, permit, and construct a facility in or along the Coyote Wash (Bella Vista Recharge Project) capable of recharging Urban Enhanced Runoff (UER). In March 2018, Cochise County was originally awarded an initial grant in the amount of \$500,000 to provide watershed planning, environmental assessment, and an engineering design which was approved by the FCD Board. The department was recently awarded an additional \$50,000 that we are requesting the FCD Board to accept.

The proposed action for this project is to continue to construct a facility that will collect the increased stormwater runoff due to development—UER—generated in the Coyote Wash watershed and flowing through the County owned Bella Vista Recharge property and utilize that extra runoff to recharge the aquifer at the downstream end of the Bella Vista property. The goal is still to enhance the base flows in the San Pedro River and groundwater modeling predicts that a project in this location will have a positive effect on San Pedro River base flows. Enhancing base flows in the San Pedro, even slightly, will help to protect riparian habitat and species of concern. Protecting this habitat and species helps ensure the future viability of an important riparian river system and of Fort Huachuca—a major economic driver in Cochise County. By carefully collecting and recharging UER, the facility will leave the pre-development flood flows intact that are essential for the floodplain regeneration in the San Pedro River and Coyote Wash tributary downstream.

The grant timeline for both began in March of 2018 and is required to be completed by Feb 28th, 2020.

Fiscal Impacts: The \$50,000 additional grant funding is also reimbursable from NRCS and will be paid from Cochise County Flood Control District Professional Services funds and reimbursed from NRCS at approved milestones during the project. There are no additional matching in-kind County contribution costs other than the original \$100,000 match for tasks required for grant submittals, reviews and coordination with NRCS and the consultant. There is no cash match required or proposed.

Highway and Floodplain
1415 Melody Lane, Building F
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9300
520-432-9337 fax
1-800-752-3745
highway@cochise.az.gov
floodplain@cochise.az.gov

Planning, Zoning and Building Safety
1415 Melody Lane, Building E
Bisbee, Arizona 85603
520-432-9300
520-432-9278 fax
1-877-777-7958
planningandzoning@cochise.az.gov

Funding Source: \$50,000

258-4100-4103 332.100

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow Up: Approved and signed grant agreement will be returned to the USDA-NRCS for their signature and then returned to Cochise County for their records. Work will continue the watershed plan, environmental assessment and design work.

Impact of Not Approving: If not approved, the FCD will not receive additional \$50,000 in USDA-NRCS grant funding. The project will continue however, unforeseen costs above the original \$500,000 will be required to be paid by Cochise County until other funding alternatives can be acquired, be it through Cochise County or other grant opportunities.