

# Agenda Report



**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, August 27, 2024

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER MCCLOUD

**SUBJECT:** AWARD OF CONTRACT TO WATSONVILLE WETLANDS WATCH  
IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$341,920.00 FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANTA CRUZ INTEGRATED  
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROPOSITION 1  
ROUND 2 FOR THE ATKINSON LANE INTEGRATED FLOOD  
MANAGEMENT AND WATERSHED

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Resolution of the City Council to authorize the City Manager Pro Tempore to execute a contract with Watsonville Wetlands Watch in an amount not to exceed \$341,920.00 for the Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 1 Round Implementation Grant for the Atkinson Lane Integrated Flood Management and Watershed Restoration Project, which funds are available in 0260 Special Grants Account.

## **BACKGROUND:**

"The Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program provides a framework for local stakeholders to manage this region's water and water-related resources. The Santa Cruz IRWM Plan was developed in response to California's IRWM planning initiative to promote an informed, locally driven, and consensus-based water resource management approach. The IRWM Plan includes strategies for developing and implementing policies and projects to ensure sustainable water use, reliable water supply, better water quality, improved flood protection and stormwater management, and environmental stewardship." ([www.santacruzirwmp.org](http://www.santacruzirwmp.org))

The City of Watsonville is a collaborating member agency in the Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Group. Through this participation, the city has had opportunities to apply for and be awarded funding for priority projects located throughout the City.

The City of Watsonville partnered with Watsonville Wetlands Watch and MidPen Housing and was awarded a Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 1, Round 2 Implementation Project grant for the Atkinson Lane Integrated Flood

Management and Watershed Restoration Project for \$545,000. This project will improve habitat and minimize localized flooding in the City. Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a local non-profit experienced in wetland stewardship, habitat restoration, and public outreach.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Atkinson Lane Integrated Flood Management and Watershed Restoration Project is a flood risk reduction and watershed habitat restoration project located on the eastern boundary of the City of Watsonville. Project activity includes designing and implementing best management practices to reduce sediment inputs into the Atkinson wetland, thereby implementing integrated flood control measures and providing flood risk reduction benefits for the surrounding and downstream residential and commercial areas within the city, a disadvantaged community. Concurrent with this work, the project will restore and enhance native habitat within the approximately 8-acre Atkinson wetland complex and engage and educate local community volunteers and school-aged groups throughout the project.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW) has been serving the City of Watsonville for more than ten years. They are the only known professionals dedicated to the protection, restoration, and education of the Watsonville wetlands that benefit wildlife, water quality, natural habitats, and local resources.

The project is subject to CEQA, which will occur as part of the project.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The implementation of the Project supports the following strategic goals:

2-Infrastructure & Environment

6-Community Engagement & Well-being

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The Proposition 1 Round Implementation Grant for the Atkinson Lane Integrated Flood Management and Watershed Restoration Project has no match requirement and funds are available in the 0260 Special Grants Account. A Watsonville Wetlands Watch contract in the amount of \$341,920.00 will be appropriated from the 0260 Special Grants account.

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

1. The City could not award the contract to Watsonville Wetlands Watch.
2. The City could return funds to the Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Group.

### **ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

Attachment 1. Department of Water Resource 4600015400 Executed Agreement.

Attachment 2. Proposition 1, Round 2 Santa Cruz Integrated Regional Water Management Executed Local Project Sponsor Agreement