



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 29, 2021

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7000

SUBJECT: Agreement with Sequoia Riverlands Trust for the M348 South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Revegetation Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an Agreement with Sequoia Riverlands Trust to perform environmental mitigation services for the M348 South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Revegetation Project, in an amount not to exceed \$109,243.43 for the period of June 29, 2021 through June 28, 2029, at an off-site location near the City of Woodlake; and
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to sign the Agreement.

SUMMARY:

Tulare County is required to perform certain environmental mitigation activities to offset impacts caused by the construction of the M348 South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The proposed mitigation work includes off-site revegetation and restoration as needed to restore trees and habitat that was cleared to accommodate the bridge and roadway construction.

In August 2020, all initial tree removal and clearing/grubbing for bridge construction was completed. In accordance with direction from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), all trees under the jurisdiction of CDFW removed as part of the Project require mitigation. Due to the limited availability of on-site space at the bridge project location, the County has selected the Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) Homer Ranch Preserve for off-site restoration efforts. Located approximately 17 miles from the Project site and approximately 5 miles northeast of the City of Woodlake, the Homer Ranch

SUBJECT: Agreement with Sequoia Riverlands Trust for the M348 South Fork Kaweah River Bridge Revegetation Project

DATE: June 29, 2021

Preserve is within the Project's watershed and has been approved by CDFW as a suitable mitigation site.

In accordance with this agreement, SRT will be responsible for all site preparation, irrigation, planting and monitoring (including preparation of yearly monitoring reports) needed to establish the proposed restoration area. County staff will provide oversight of the restoration efforts and review of the yearly monitoring reports submitted to CDFW.

Once this agreement is executed, SRT can initiate off-site mitigation required for the Project. The agreement will have a term limit of approximately 8 years to allow for supplemental restoration efforts (i.e. additional planting and restoration) in case of damage to original plantings due to drought, disease, or foraging animals. It is estimated that the total for off-site mitigation will cost up to \$140,000, including staff management, review, and coordination efforts with CDFW.

Off-site revegetation and restoration are scheduled to begin in August of 2021. In accordance with the County's site-specific revegetation plan, off-site revegetation and restoration will require an establishment period of approximately 5 years (3 years of active monitoring followed by 2 years of passive monitoring). At the end of this 5 years, staff will prepare and submit a Final Revegetation Plan to CDFW to confirm all plant establishment requirements have been met.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No Net County cost to the General Fund.

County Road Funds will be used to fund this Project but will be fully reimbursed by Federal Highway Bridge Program funds with the use of "toll credits" (no local match required).

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

This project will promote the quality of life by restoring the natural habitat and improving the quality of the environment that was impacted by the bridge construction project.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A – Agreement with Sequoia Riverlands Trust