

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 14, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Regional Parks

Subject: Report Back: Project Associated With The Required Lower American River 2-D Hydraulic Modeling Study To Obtain State Reclamation Board Permit

Contact: Gary J. Kukkola, Interim Director, 875-6283

At the September 6, 2006 Final Budget Hearings, the Board requested a report back regarding the project associated with the required Lower American River 2-D Hydraulic Modeling Study to obtain the State Reclamation Board Permit. This item is a CEO-recommended funded additional growth request in the amount of \$42,800 (Attachment V-A, page 20).

On February 28, 2006, the Board approved Resolution 2006-0236 authorizing the Woodlake Elderberry Mitigation project, a 26.6 acre mitigation project to be completed by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) in the Woodlake area of the American River Parkway. As landowner of the project site, it was necessary for County Parks to secure a Floodplain Encroachment Permit (FEP) from the State of California Reclamation Board (Reclamation Board) authorizing the planting of woody vegetation within the floodway. The Reclamation Board issued a FEP for this project, with a condition that the County completes a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the Parkway. However, before a VMP can be completed, it is necessary to complete a hydraulic modeling study to evaluate the potential for the mitigation plantings placed in the Parkway to adversely affect the conveyance capacity of the floodway.

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) retained the firm of MBK Engineers to complete the Lower American River 2-D Hydraulic Modeling Study, which was done in conjunction with the County's agreements with SAFCA and WAPA to allow WAPA to build its mitigation site within the Parkway. This study has not yet been completed. Funding for the remaining work to be completed for this hydraulic study is part of the budget reductions made by SAFCA for their Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget.

The VMP will establish standards and a blueprint for enhancing habitat values of the American River Parkway, through future mitigation projects. Included in this VMP is a review and update of Parks' Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) fee applied to such mitigation projects. This plan would be used to secure a general permit from the Reclamation Board for future mitigation/enhancement projects in the Parkway. Parks has agreed to pay the entire cost of the development of the VMP because of the potential long term economic benefits and the enhancements to Parkway habitats. However, if the hydraulic modeling study is not completed, then it is inadvisable to move forward with the VMP, as it is dependent upon the results of the hydraulic modeling study.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

GARY KUKKOLA, Interim Director
Department of Regional Parks

By: _____
CHERYL CRESON, Administrator
Municipal Services Agency