



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
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RE: Memorandum of Understanding for Mill Valley/Marin County Sustainable Water Pilot Project.

Building and Safety
Environmental Health Services
Planning
Environmental Review
Housing
Sustainability
Code Enforcement
GIS
Federal Grants

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Consider authorizing the President of the Board of Supervisors to approve the County's participation in the Mill Valley/Marin County Sustainable Water Pilot Project through a memorandum of understanding. (See Attachment 1.)

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Board of Supervisors advanced the County's interest in encouraging water conservation by adopting new local regulations that allow residential property owners to obtain County approval for gray water systems without the time and expense of a conventional permit review process.

More recently, staff has increased efforts to promote the benefits of gray water and the relative ease in which consumers may file a simple registration form to install and use simple gray water systems for outdoor irrigation (that being one of the larger user groups in the county).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

In late 2013, Supervisor Sears initiated discussions with Cynthia Koehler of WaterNow (a project of the Trust for Conservation Innovation) regarding the County's participation in a collaborative effort to promote the installation and use of gray water systems and other sustainable water technology and practices. The basic goals of this initiative are to demonstrate the potential to save water, conserve energy, lower water bills, enhance local economic development and increase water supply security. The collaboration would be established through the attached draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that defines the purpose of the pilot project as well as the roles and responsibilities of the County and other participants, including the Marin Municipal Water District, the City of Mill Valley, the Tamalpais Community Services District, the Marin Builders Association and WaterNow.

www.marincounty.org/cda

The effort will be led for the most part by WaterNow, a new non-profit dedicated to the promotion of sustainable water technologies, spearheaded by two Marin-based experts water policy attorney (and MMWD director) Cynthia Koehler, and Audrey Finci, a management consultant and leader in business transformation strategies. As a participant in the effort, the County's role would be limited to the following:

- Helping to identify County priorities and needs; for example, coordinating regulations and permit requirements with Marin municipalities
- Providing data, maps, and other resources as appropriate
- Working with the other parties to secure resources to support program objectives
- Promoting the effort on the County's website and other venues as appropriate
- Helping to identify community leaders and other partners
- Considering inclusion of the Project in budget and other County planning efforts as appropriate
- Communicating with other parties as needed

Participation in the MOU does not entail any new legal or financial obligations on the part of the County. Staff assistance with this project would not take precedence over initiatives approved by your Board in the Community Development Agency's Performance Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the County budget from the County's participation in the MOU. Although not anticipated at this time, requests for future funding from the County would be subject to review and approval by the County Administrator and/or Board of Supervisors.

REVIEWED BY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

SIGNATURES:

	
Brian C. Crawford Director, CDA	Rebeca Ng Deputy Director Environmental Health Services, CDA

Attachments:

1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Mill Valley/Marin County Sustainable Water Pilot Project, December 11, 2012