



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Quality, Excellence, Innovation

Raul M. Rojas  
DIRECTOR

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Administration  
PO Box 4186  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4186  
415 473 6528 T  
415 473 3799 F  
415 473 3232 TTY  
CRS Dial 711  
www.marincounty.org/pw

Board of Supervisors  
3501 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement with Restoration Design Group (RDG) to complete the Southern Marin Watershed Guide in an amount not to exceed \$74,980, Supervisorial District 3

Dear Board Members:

**RECOMMENDATION:** Execute agreement.

**SUMMARY:** The Southern Marin Watershed Program is a collaborative effort to identify sustainable flood management measures with our partners, the City of Mill Valley and the Advisory Boards of Flood Control Zones #3 and #4. The Southern Marin watershed includes 14 square miles draining to Richardson Bay including the communities of Marin City, Tamalpais and Homestead Valleys, the City of Mill Valley, Strawberry, Bel Aire and a small portion of Tiburon. The Southern Marin Watershed Guide will provide communities, program partners, and decision-makers with the information necessary to understand flooding in their communities, identify approaches to potential solutions, and will serve as a resource to guide decision making and resource commitments.

The goal of the Watershed Guide is to communicate the risks and beauty of the landscape both natural and man-made. Flood protection is the underlying theme, but the guide will describe the interconnectedness between flooding, habitat, natural disasters, and future rising tides so that the community understands the basis for potential flood protection options.

The Watershed Guide will be used as starting point for decision-making and consideration of project alternatives. Identified projects will require additional revenue, which could be raised through passage of a fee or tax measure. The Guide will be used to support community outreach and consensus building. Southern Marin Watershed Program staff will take the lead with community outreach for the review of the plan with partners and stakeholders.

Complementing development of the Guide, Watershed Program staff are developing models of watershed runoff, GIS-based story maps, outlining options for adaptation to sea level rise along the Richardson Bay shoreline and administering a State of California grant to evaluate the Coyote Creek channel and its levees. The findings from these studies will be highlighted in the Watershed Guide.

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Most of the technical and background writing has been completed by staff of the Watershed Program. Production of a high quality Guide will require skilled technical editing, graphics development, and layout assistance to engage a wide audience. A competitive process was utilized and Restoration Design Group (RDG) and their subcontractor, Leslie Stone and Associates are recommended to support development of the Guide. Their proposal reflects their understanding of the County's vision and their expertise will help us transform decades of studies, projects, and information into a user friendly Southern Marin Watershed Guide. RDG has extensive experience producing similar plans and guides for other Bay Area communities. Leslie Stone and Associates specializes in interpretive design and the communication of natural and ecological concepts. They have worked with many local agencies including other counties, land trusts, parks conservancies, and are currently working with our Parks Department to upgrade and re-design their interpretive signage.

The Guide will be produced by March 2015. It is intended to be a web-based document to complement existing information on the Marin Watersheds website ([www.marinwatersheds.org](http://www.marinwatersheds.org)). Limited paper editions will be published. Development of the guide will be led by staff with review and support from our partner agencies, the Technical Working Group, the Policy Advisory Committee, and the respective Flood Zone Advisory Boards for Zone 3 and 4. Community updates on the progress of the Guide will be posted online and several meetings are planned this fall to introduce the Watershed Program and to provide input to the Guide.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for this agreement are available in General Fund 10000, Watershed Stewardship Fund Center #4100995010, Professional Services Commitment Item 5210110. There are no additional impacts to the General Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy J. Clay  
Principal Civil Engineer

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