



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Dan Hermstad, Program Specialist  
**RE:** Item 6.2. MWS 14 – Watsonville Slough Farm Sediment Basin Project  
**Date:** 7/2/2024

RCD staff recommend entering into a Construction contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the Watsonville Slough Farm Sediment Basin project. Bids were opened on July 1, 2024 and we have an apparent low bidder with a bid of \$198,008. Construction is currently planned to be completed by October 15, 2024. The project is being implemented as part of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County's management plan for the Watsonville Slough Farm and will prevent sediment runoff from nearby farm fields from entering the middle arm of the Watsonville Slough. The project includes the construction of one (1) sediment basin to detain 1,095 cubic yards of sediment. The sediment basin is located approximately 2.5 miles west of downtown Watsonville and 1.9 miles south of SR 1. The basin construction will include excavation of the approximately 1.2 acre site. Excavated soils, upon approval of engineer, will be used to build the earthen berm. A standard riser pipe (24") outlet will be installed through the berm. The basin will also include the construction of an auxiliary spillway as well as a graded access ramp to allow access to vehicles to the bottom of the basin. A further component of the project will be the re-grading of the adjacent farm road and the installation of a drainage ditch alongside to convey road runoff through the newly constructed basin. At the tail of the ditch a culvert will be constructed to cross the road underground, enter a flume, and serve as an inlet for the basin. Staff recommend this project.

The contract will be paid with funding from the Regional Water Management Foundation (Award P1R1IMP\_LPS\_4600013804, state funding). The project designs were completed by Waterways Consulting who contracted directly with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. The project was permitted through the PIR program and, after final design revisions, only required the County Master Permit and a 401 Water Quality Certification.

This is a state funded project. According to the District's 1080 Procurement Policy, a construction project with an estimated cost of over \$250,000 falls under the 1080.7.1.3 Formal Bid Process. Therefore, bid solicitation followed the 1080.7.3 Formal Bid Process; the bid opening occurred on July 1, 2024 and staff are in the process of issuing a notice of intent to award to the lowest responsible bidder.

RCD staff recommends this project because:

- It will result in water quality improvements to a 303(d) listed impaired waterway –TMDL's for nutrients and sediment.
- It furthers the goals of a management plan that the RCD has previously participated in and strengthens the landowner partner relationship.

It is therefore recommended that the Board approve entering a Construction contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the Watsonville Slough Farm Sediment Basins project.