



Cochise County

Community Development

Highway and Floodplain Division

Public Programs...Personal Service
www.cochise.az.gov

April 25, 2018

To: Flood Control District Board of Directors

From: Joaquin Solis, P.E., Interim County Engineer

Subject: Contract with West Consultants, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the preparation and approval of a Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment and Engineering Design for the Bella Vista Urban Enhanced Runoff Recharge Project.

Recommendation: Approve a contract with West Consultants, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the preparation and approval of a Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment and Engineering Design for the Bella Vista Urban Enhanced Runoff Recharge Project and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Background: On March 13, 2018 the Cochise County Flood Control District Board approved acceptance of a grant award from NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) in the reimbursable amount of \$500,000. Cochise County Floodplain with assistance from County Procurement has requested Statement of Qualification proposals for the grant work from three pre-qualified engineering firms. Those proposals were reviewed by a panel of County employees and informally by an NRCS engineer. It was agreed that the highest qualified firm was West Consultants. Phone and in-person meetings were held with the consultant team, Floodplain and Procurement staff and NRCS, along with scope and fee negotiations to produce the contract before you for approval.

We believe that this contract will provide the framework for the West Consultants team to successfully produce the required work in the approved grant timeframe and within the grant budget. The work is to be completed by February 28, 2020. When complete, the project will be ready to bid for construction if funds are available.

Being selected for funding through design by NRCS is a good indicator that a request for construction funding upon design and cost estimate completion, would be judged favorably in a future grant funding round (if NRCS funding is budgeted and authorized).

The proposed action for this project is to construct a facility that will collect the increased stormwater runoff due to development—UER—generated in the Coyote Wash watershed and flowing through the County owned Bella Vista Recharge property, and utilize that extra runoff to recharge the aquifer at the downstream end of the Bella Vista property. The goal is to enhance the base flows in the San Pedro River and groundwater modeling predicts that a project in this location will have a positive effect on San Pedro River base flows. Enhancing base flows in the San Pedro, even slightly, will help to protect riparian habitat and species of concern. Protecting this habitat and species helps ensure the future viability of an important riparian river system and of Fort Huachuca—a major economic driver in Cochise County. By carefully collecting and recharging UER, the facility will leave the pre-development flood flows intact for floodplain regeneration in the San Pedro River and Coyote Wash tributary downstream.

Highway and Floodplain

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Fiscal Impacts: The \$500,000 reimbursable grant from NRCS will be paid from Cochise County Flood Control District Professional Services funds and reimbursed from NRCS at approved milestones during the project. The matching in-kind County contribution costs of up to \$100,000 will be staff time for tasks required for grant submittals, meetings, reviews and coordination with NRCS and the consultant. There is no cash match required or proposed.

Funding Source:	\$500,000	258-4100-4103 332.100
	\$100,000 (no cash match)	tracked on a time and effort log

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow Up: Please return two fully executed contract to Cochise County Procurement and a copy to Floodplain. Once signed by both the consultant and the FCD Board, the executed contract serves as the Notice to Proceed to West Consultants.

Impact of Not Approving: The FCD Board has already formally accepted the grant (Cooperative Agreement) from NRCS. Hiring a consultant is the necessary next step that will lead to successful completion of the agreement between County and NRCS.