

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Environmental Resources

BOARD AGENDA # *B-4

Urgent

Routine

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE March 26, 2013

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Authorization to Allow Access and Use of Property Near the Tuolumne River at the Geer Road Landfill to the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the access and use of property near the Tuolumne River at the Geer Road Landfill to the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Tuolumne River Project is funded by The United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There will be no fiscal impact to the Department of Environmental Resources.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-123

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Authorization to Allow Access and Use of Property Near the Tuolumne River at the Geer Road Landfill to the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources was recently contacted by the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; a team that is maintaining an acoustic telemetry receiver site on the Tuolumne River. Specifically, this receiver is part of an extensive network that helps support various studies and monitoring efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), to gather data on Chinook salmon and sturgeon in the San Joaquin River. Eight similar monitoring sites have been in place from just below the Stanislaus confluence to above the Merced confluence on the San Joaquin River.

The project objectives include:

1. Obtaining permission to add a lock to each of the two (2) existing gates and to gain access at these points located on the County-owned Triangle Ranch property adjacent to the Geer Road Landfill.
2. Maintaining an acoustic telemetry receiver site on the Tuolumne River consisting of an acoustic telemetry receiver, attached to a cement mooring, with a buoy line anchored to a tree with stainless steel cable.
3. Collecting information from the receiver as part of a network that helps support various studies and monitoring efforts to gather data on Chinook salmon and sturgeon in the San Joaquin River.
4. Gathering scientifically sound data at anytime of the year in a safe, effective, and efficient manner.

The project will be conducted by a team of two to three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or CDFG employees. Access would be needed about once every four to six weeks, for a minimum of four to five site visits annually. Once permission is granted, accessibility through Triangle Ranch will be needed through the end of calendar year 2015.

The "footprint" of the project location is described as follows: "Within the Tuolumne River at river mile 24.5, adjacent to Assessor's Parcel No. 009-029-015 and consisting of 125 feet by 30 feet in the river channel, and 50 by 50 feet on the adjacent shoreline." Given that the project footprint and an access road are located within or on County-owned property, the United States Department of the Interior is requesting permission to access the project site from Geer Road Landfill. The team would be launching a small Jon-boat at the Fish-Bio weir access point, which the Board approved on June 24, 2008, and would float down stream approximately 1/10 of one mile to the receiver location. The receiver then is downloaded on the boat and no actual land access is required at the station.

Authorization to Allow Access and Use of Property Near the Tuolumne River at the Geer Road Landfill to the United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The project as described indicates that normal activities will not be conducted on or near the on-site access road, but will be conducted at the river's edge and within the river channel. The on-site road will typically only be used for passenger vehicle access and parking.

Department staff feels that this project would not interfere with activities taking place at the site, but since it is a closed landfill, staff would work cooperatively with the Department of the Interior to arrange site access.

The County cannot, however, guarantee the safety and security of the structures/equipment that are installed for the project and the Department of the Interior, is aware of this and accepts full responsibility for same. For the Board's reference, included as Attachment A, is a copy of the request from the United States Department of the Interior.

POLICY ISSUE:

This action supports the Board's priorities of A Safe Community, A Healthy Community, A Well Planned Infrastructure System, and Efficient Delivery of Public Services. Authorizing access and use of property is critical to supporting the Department's mission to promote a safe and healthy environment and improve the quality of life in the community through a balance of science, education, partnerships and environmental regulation.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item at this time.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jami Aggers, Director of Environmental Resources Telephone: 209-525-6770



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office
850 South Guild Avenue, Suite 105
Lodi, California 95240



August 30, 2012

Jami Aggers
Department of Environmental Resources
Stanislaus County
3800 Cornucopia Way Suite C
Modesto, CA 95358

Subject: Request for Permission to Access Gates at the Geer Road Landfill, Stanislaus County, CA



Dear Mr. Jami Aggers,

I am writing this letter to request permission for gate access to your property. The purpose of the gate entry would be to gain river access from your property in order to maintain an acoustic telemetry receiver site on the Tuolumne River. The receiver site consists of one acoustic telemetry receiver attached to a cement mooring with a buoy line anchored to a tree with stainless steel cable. The receiver is part of an extensive network that helps support various studies and monitoring efforts to gather data on Chinook salmon and sturgeon in the San Joaquin River. Currently we have 8 monitoring sites from just below the Stanislaus confluence to above the Merced confluence on the San Joaquin River. We also have sites on each of the three San Joaquin River tributaries (Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers). The receivers are maintained and monitored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Anadromous Fish Restoration Program and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

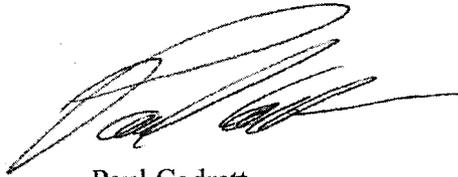
With your permission, we would like to be able to add a lock to the two gates at the Geer Road Landfill site to access the receiver site on the Tuolumne River. A monitoring crew consisting of two or three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or CDFG employees will need access to the site every four to six weeks. The crew would be launching a small jon boat at the FishBio weir location and float downstream approximately 1/10 of a mile to the receiver location. The receiver then is downloaded on the boat and no actual land access is required at the station.

Being able to access the river from the Geer Road site is very important and helpful to us for a couple of critical reasons. The most important reason is that as river flows fluctuate, there are times of the year when flows are so low that our boats are unable to travel through many areas of the river. This site gives us access to the river in very close proximity to the receiver site so that we can access the site regularly throughout the year regardless of flows. This is critical for our data to be thorough and scientifically sound. In addition, river access at this site is very convenient and allows us to launch and quickly

ATTACHMENT A

download the receiver in 10 or 15 minutes saving staff time and travel costs. Your help and cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Zachary Jackson at (209) 334-2968 ext. 408 if you have any questions regarding the receiver or our studies. Thank you again for all of your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Cadrett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Cadrett
Deputy Project Leader
Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office