

Background

The Willow Creek Watershed Restoration Planning Project (Project) is a Proposition 84, Category II grant funded project which was awarded to the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District (CRCD) in FY 2010-11 in the amount of \$60,764. The CRCD went into an extended period of inactivity for a variety of reasons including the resignation of several of its board members. No alternates were immediately identified but eventually the project manager and remaining board members were successful in recruiting and appointing new members.

The newly reconstituted board is determining the direction of the organization and does not believe they are currently equipped to implement the Project. The CRCD has been in discussions with SNC Project Lead, Bobby Kamansky and Steve Haze, Director for the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council (YSRC&DC) and is now seeking approval from the Board to transfer this project to the YSRC&DC. The YSRC&DC is familiar with the scope of work, has experience in conducting outreach and planning projects, and is eager and willing to take on the implementation of the project. They are also planning to take this opportunity to work with the new CRCD board to inform and train them on administering a planning project with multiple partners such as this one.

Current Status

This is an active grant and although no invoices have been submitted, the project manager has provided regular updates on the status of the project and the CRCD. No work is taking place on the project at this time. The request, if approved, will make the project feasible and give YSRC&DC time to execute the deliverables and complete the project. It will also ensure that the CRCD board members receive information and training on implementing similar projects in the future which will increase the capacity of this local community-based organization. Both funding agencies have been consulted on this proposed action and the Boards of both organizations have each passed resolutions to support this action.

When the Board authorized the original grant in March 2011, the SNC completed and filed a Notice of Exemption to satisfy its requirement to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project was found to be Categorical Exempt per CEQA Guidelines [Article 19, Section 15306](#). If the Board authorizes the proposed transfer, staff will file another Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse citing the same Exemption.

Next Steps

If this request to change grantees is approved, staff will work with the CRCD and YSRC&DC to complete the transfer process.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the transfer of grant SNC 317 from the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District to the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council and direct staff to prepare the appropriate documents to facilitate the transfer process.