### Agenda Item Number: 7
(This Section for use by Clerk of the Board Only.)

Clerk of the Board  
575 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To: Board of Directors, Sonoma County Water Agency

**Board Agenda Date:** December 10, 2013  
**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Department or Agency Name(s):** Sonoma County Water Agency

**Staff Name and Phone Number:**  
Keenan Foster / 547-1941

**Supervisory District(s):**  
All Districts

**Title:** Watershed Academics for Sustainability Collaborative (WATERS)

#### Recommended Actions:

Authorize Chair to execute the first amended agreement with Sonoma State University to increase agreement amount by $204,318, expanding the scope of work to include greater collaboration opportunity across additional educational disciplines, a web-based reporting approach, and extending the agreement term by three years, for a new not-to-exceed agreement total of $252,475, and end date of December 31, 2016.

#### Executive Summary:

This item requests approval for the Chair to execute the first amended agreement with Sonoma State University to increase agreement amount by $204,318, expanding the scope of work to include greater collaboration opportunity across additional disciplines, a web-based reporting approach, and extending the agreement term by three years for a new not-to-exceed agreement total of $252,475, and end date of December 31, 2016.

#### HISTORY OF ITEM/BACKGROUND

Since the founding of Sonoma State University (Sonoma State), faculty, students, and staff have been engaged in issues surrounding the regional management of water resources, energy, and sustainability. These activities have been enhanced by the campus’ location on Copeland Creek.

Collaborations between Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) staff and Sonoma State faculty and students have been on-going for many years. One example is the Sonoma State Plant Propagation program. Since 2003, the Water Agency has contracted with Sonoma State to develop a native-plant propagation program that served the dual purpose of providing locally-collected plant material for the Water Agency’s restoration and channel maintenance projects, and promoting education and practical training for Sonoma State students.

Under these and other programs, many Sonoma State student interns have been engaged in a variety of Water Agency programs in environmental education, restoration, and contract work. Since the Water Agency periodically needs research and investigation services that improve the effectiveness of the Water Agency’s stream maintenance, water supply, energy, and sanitation services, the Watershed Academics for Sustainability Collaborative (WATERS) agreement supports and builds on these existing interactions between
the Water Agency and Sonoma State.

The Water Agency and Sonoma State entered into an agreement for the WATERS Collaborative, dated June 19, 2012, in the amount of $48,157. The continuing overarching goals of the WATERS Collaborative are to: 1) create a trained local workforce of Sonoma State graduates with knowledge, expertise, and interest in water management issues; 2) increase and broaden Sonoma State student, faculty, and staff contributions to the Water Agency’s projects and programs; 3) enhance public awareness and understanding of flood protection and water management issues and the value of the WATERS Collaborative; 4) improve the effectiveness of the Water Agency’s stream maintenance, water supply, energy, and sanitation activities; and, 5) support an administrative structure for the WATERS Collaborative.

The scope of work for achieving these goals includes the following tasks: 1) connecting Water Agency environmental resource and hydrologic data needs with Sonoma State research resources; 2) maintaining the website to describe and track the progress of Water Agency/Sonoma State collaborative projects; 3) continuing collaboration with the Water Agency in identifying relevant courses and watershed management projects for these courses; 4) supporting the advisory committee composed of Water Agency staff and Sonoma State staff, faculty, and student representatives to review proposals for course supplies; and, 5) hosting the annual WATERS Collaborative symposium in May to present the results of projects and research performed.

The success of the WATERS Collaborative is proportional to the number of collaborative projects benefitting the Water Agency. Increasing the quality and depth of the partnership between Sonoma State and the Water Agency should also increase the competitiveness of future grant proposals for the Copeland Creek Watershed Storm Water Detention, Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Restoration, Steelhead Refugia Project, and other watershed-related projects in Sonoma County.

To date, research implemented includes several significant studies evaluating sedimentation, vegetation management (weed control), and water quality in different reaches of the Copeland Creek Channel from the headwaters to the confluence with the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The effort in 2012 culminated in a very well-attended and supported Science Symposium where over 120 students presented their results in poster and presentation sessions. The website provides information on past and current Faculty/Student WATERS Collaborative projects ([http://www.sonoma.edu/preserves/waters/about/index.html](http://www.sonoma.edu/preserves/waters/about/index.html)). This effort is anticipated to involve 1200- 1500 students over the next three years. Additionally, the WATERS Collaborative funding provides opportunities for Sonoma State to leverage additional related grant funding across many disciplines. The 2012 effort leveraged an additional $20,000 in University and donor funding. Currently at least $48,000 is anticipated to be sourced from the Campus, Pacific Gas and Electric, and private donors.

Based on the success of the program, Water Agency and Sonoma State staff wish to expand the scope and term of the agreement. The proposed amended agreement has a not to exceed total of $252,475, and will terminate on December 31, 2016. Funding from this agreement will be administered by the Sonoma State University Field Stations & Nature Preserves (Preserves). The Amended Agreement will provide partial funding for Preserves staff administering this program, indirect costs, course supplies, and for the May WATERS Collaborative symposium. Under the proposed amended agreement, the scope will expand collaboration opportunities across biology, chemistry, engineering, geography, restoration ecology, plant physiology, kinesiology, liberal and performing arts. Engineering undergraduates and graduates will be involved with WATERS as part of water and atmospheric sensor development and environmental sensor network development projects which will assist with long term climate based water planning. Reporting will be accomplished through a web based reporting approach that provides a place to archive and search student and partner projects in the interest of knowledge sharing across disciplines and between governmental and non-governmental entities. This approach to data sharing provides a significant resource to the Water Agency staff, customers, and partners supporting science driven Water
Agency initiatives. To meet the intent of the WATERS Collaborative and to consolidate related efforts (public education, stream and resource management, and environmental research) Water Agency staff recommends amending the agreement with Board approval.


SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED
Under the proposed amended agreement, Sonoma State will maintain and update the WATERS website, develop, evaluate, and identify research topics, and engage faculty and students in watershed management needs. Sonoma State will also conduct outreach to involve community members in activities and engage additional organizations to support and partner in WATERS projects.

The cost of services will not exceed $68,106 in fiscal year 2013/2014; $68,106 in fiscal year 2014/2015; and $68,106 in fiscal year 2015/2016. The term end date is 12/31/2016. The Amended Agreement adds an additional $204,318, for a new not-to-exceed proposed amended agreement total of $252,475.

Prior Board Actions:
6/19/2012: Approved agreement between Water Agency and Sonoma State University for the WATERS Collaborative ($48,157; term end 12/31/2013).

Strategic Plan Alignment
Goal 2: Economic and Environmental Stewardship

The Agreement supports the County Goal 2 by supporting an important collaborative between the Water Agency and the California State University System. Under the collaborative, Sonoma State is supporting research that addresses long term management questions, and provides a path for future County employees working in these subject areas.

Water Agency Flood Control Goals and Strategies, Goal 1: Maintain, operate, and modify flood protection facilities to meet current and future public needs.

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<th>Fiscal Summary - FY 13-14</th>
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<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
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Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (If Required):

Fiscal Year 2013-2014 $68,104 is from the Laguna Mark West Zone 1A fund. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 appropriation of $68,104 will be budgeted in that fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2015-2016, appropriation of $68,104 will be budgeted in that fiscal year.

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<th>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</th>
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Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

None.

Attachments:

None.

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:

Amended Agreement (4 Copies)