



# County of Monterey

Item No.

## Board Report

Board of Supervisors  
Chambers  
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRAG 25-153

September 15, 2025

Introduced: 9/9/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

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Matter Type: WR General Agenda

Approve the annual Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for streamgaging and reservoir elevation gaging work in Monterey County in the amount of \$256,210; and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors:

- a. Approve the Annual Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Geological Survey for streamgaging and reservoir elevation gaging work in Monterey County in the amount of \$256,210; and
- b. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Agreement.

### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

Annually, a proposal to continue the Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is submitted to the Board for consideration. This proposal for Federal Fiscal Year 2025-2026 covers streamgaging work to be performed by the USGS during the twelve-month period, October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

The cooperative program with the USGS provides quantification of flow and sedimentation on major streams and creeks throughout the County. Services provided by the USGS through this program include the installation and maintenance of equipment, the collection of data using mechanical recorders and USGS personnel, emergency response during flooding, and the analyses of data and preparation of annual streamflow records. Data collected through this program has been used to determine the frequency and magnitude of surface water flow in order to estimate the infiltration of water and the transport of sediment within streambeds; and to estimate the annual sedimentation into reservoirs. The data is also critical to the calculating surface water travel times used in the Agency's ALERT Flood Monitoring Program and for guidance of reservoir releases year-round, including when the SRDF is operational. Complete and timely surface water data are essential to the management of water resources and greatly facilitates the utilization of modern tools such as groundwater and surface water models and forecast informed reservoir operations. The reservoir elevation gages have provided accurate high frequency logging of reservoir levels needed to meet water rights reporting requirements from the State Water Resources Control Board. The reservoir gages also enhance flood-control monitoring through automated continuous realtime reservoir elevation reporting.

The Joint Funding Agreement was taken to the Finance Committee on September 5, 2025, and was recommended to be approved by the Board of Directors.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The Agency and USGS have collaborated in the development of this Agreement. No other agencies have been involved.

FINANCING:

The total cost to of this program is projected to be \$311,260 reflecting an overall 82/18 split; with 82% funding from the Agency (Projected \$256,210) matched by 18% funding from the Federal government (\$55,050). Funding for this program comes from Agency Funds 111 (17%), 116 (76%), and 122 (7%). The breakdown between funds is determined by gage location, with gages that influence reservoir operations being funded by Fund 116 and flood warning gages located outside the Salinas watershed being funded by Fund 111. The one gage on the Reclamation ditch is funded by Fund 122. Gages in the San Lorenzo Creek and Pajaro watersheds are among those receiving full federal funding, so no funding is allocated from their corresponding funds. Funding for this agreement between October 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 has been identified in the Agency's FY 2025-26 Adopted budget. Funding for July 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026 will be budgeted in FY 2026-27. Funding for one gage, Salinas R at King City CA, will be reimbursed by the California Department of Water Resources as part of the California Streamgage Improvement Program. Projected costs for this gage are \$17,550.

Prepared by: Joseph Klein, Hydrologist, (831) 755-4860

Approved by, Ara Azhderian, General Manager, (831) 755-4860

Attachment:

1. Joint Funding Agreement for Federal Fiscal Year 2025-26 with Letter, Scope of Work, and Funding Table for FY 2025-2026
2. Board Order