

Jennifer J. Bitting, P.E.
Storm Water Program Manager
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Via email

April 18, 2005

Dear Jennifer:

Thank you for the opportunity to present a "ready to go" Cambria Forest Management Plan that addresses watershed management issues in the lower Santa Rosa Creek watershed basin and provide a direct nexus for dispersal of mitigation funds.

This is not a request to fund a plan or to conduct studies but rather to implement a forest management plan that affects critical water related issues in a rare forest habitat that drains largely into Santa Rosa Creek and to a lesser degree the Pacific Ocean. The Cambria Forest Management Plan was funded by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, written by Jones & Stokes for the Cambria Forest Committee and accepted by the Cambria Community Services District. The Cambria Forest Committee obtained funding for the plan, developed the Request for Proposal, interviewed prospective candidates, and managed the development of the plan to completion.

The first year estimated start up cost is as follows:

Contract with a Forest Ecologist - \$65,000 per year
Travel allowance (Meetings, automobile expenses and Insurance) \$7,000
Equipment (GIS/GPS, analytical software, computer related equipment, etc.) \$15,000
Home office expenses (paper, phone, printer ink, publications) \$1,000
Misc. \$4,000
Total = \$92,000

Two following years estimated costs are:

Contract salary \$130,000
Automobile expenses \$10,000
Office expenses \$3,000
Misc. \$10,000
Total = \$153,000

Grand total for three years \$245,000

The Cambria Forest Management Plan directly benefits every property owner in Cambria, directly affects aquatic species dependent on clean water and gravels, addresses non-point and point source pollution from urban runoff from drainage areas emptying into Santa Rosa Creek. Further, the plan will manage fuel loads in the rapidly urbanizing forest helping prevent catastrophic fires that would create enormous erosion issues and siltation of the lower watershed basin.

Numerous studies tell us of the many economic benefits of managing forested components of watersheds, including increased water quality and quantity, and lessened impacts of flooding, erosion and siltation. The Forest Management Plan addresses these issues as essential elements of an overall management protocol.

And lastly, forest management maintains and even increases property values, provides scenic forested vistas for the millions of visitors to our area, and for the various natural habitat values that the lower Santa Rosa Creek watershed and forest provides.

Coincidentally, the Cambria Forest Management Plan is on this week's CCSD agenda and it is anticipated that the directors will direct staff to analyze the long term costs and benefits of implementing the Plan.

The decisive item to keep in mind is that this project is "ready to go" and the Management Plan is supported by the CCSD. The CCSD fully understands the need for implementing this vital component of watershed management in the lower basin of Santa Rosa Creek. A non-profit organization exists to manage the yearly operation of implementation and has a member of the CCSD on its board of directors.

The plan is located permanently on http://FRAP.CDF.ca.gov/pitch_canker/ . If you want further information on our request please contact me by phone or email.

Best regards,

Richard Hawley