



April 20, 2026

Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District  
C/O Carol Thomas-Keefer  
2255 S. Broadway Unit 8E  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

RE: Twitchell Reservoir Phase 1 & II Implementation of Reservoir Project  
Proposal for Planning Services

Dear Carol:

This proposal outlines the professional services to be provided by Rural Planning Services, a subsidiary of Urban Planning Concepts, Inc. Based on conversations, the SMVWCD is considering developing a Twitchell Reservoir improvement project to increase volume. Due to the scope of the project, it is estimated it will be a 10 year project to implement. Such a project entails a multi-agency effort and includes area outreach and funding requirements.

RPS provided a general strategic outline that highlighted four main phases necessary to develop the project and the permit the process through the state and federal nexus. Due to the complexity of the complexity of the process RPS recommended initiating Phases I & II to minimize capital exposure and funding of each phase as it comes up through completion.

Phase I and Phase II for the whole of the project would be envisioned accordingly as provided in the Strategic Plan Overview:

**Phase 1 — Project Initiation & Definition (3–6 Months)**

**Step 1: Internal Alignment**

Conduct working sessions to define project purpose, storage targets, grading zones, and success metrics. Develop conceptual plans.

**Step 2: Data Compilation**

Collect hydrology, sedimentation, bathymetry, and groundwater recharge data.

**Step 3: Fatal Flaw Screening**

Evaluate jurisdictional waters, biological resources, cultural resources, and private property impacts.

Deliverable: Conceptual Project Definition Report

## Phase 2 — Strategic Planning & Outreach (6–12 Months)

### Agency Coordination

Engage US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, FEMA, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### Local Government Coordination

Coordinate with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties on land use and CEQA.

### Stakeholder Outreach

Engage landowners through meetings, workshops, and voluntary acquisition strategies.

Deliverable: Strategic Implementation Plan

## **RPS Tasks**

As part of the Phase I and II implementation RPS tasks will include:

- Participate in Technical Committee project development charettes to accomplish Step 1 and develop the regulatory project description
- Assist other consultants in the development of conceptual plans and studies that are deemed necessary to provide sufficient materials for a comprehensive strategic plan for presentation to applicable agencies
- Attend SMVWCD Board meetings as needed to go over progress and do final presentation
- Coordinate and implement environmental assessments of project implementation
- Evaluate potential impacts and level of regulatory compliance measures to meet federal and state environmental laws
- Provide lead coordination and implementation of project presentation to federal, state, and county regulatory agencies. Work with the agencies to obtain project design recommendations and regulatory framework requirements
- Assist the SMVWCD in identifying landowners impacted by the project and presentation of project to such landowners in obtaining consent.
- Assist the SMVWCD in providing public outreach by the direction of the Board

Once the phases are complete and the project remains regulatorily practicable and financially viable a separate proposal would be provided to cover Phase III

## **RPS Costs**

To accomplish the above-mentioned tasks, it is estimated the cost to complete the project would be **\$38,750**.

RPS actually works on a time and materials basis. This cost estimate is generated by the expected levels of issues that arise with such tasks. Should additional issues arise or extra tasks be deemed necessary by Board direction or driven by regulatory agency participation that are not anticipated, additional costs could incur. UPC will notify you of any such circumstance as early as possible.

If satisfactory, we will forward our authorization to Proceed Agreement and, if acceptable, please sign and forward back to our office. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Swenk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S".

David Swenk  
Principal Planner