



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-14-109
Meeting 14-23
August 28, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Amend Contract with Ascent Environmental for the Integrated Pest Management Program

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. J. ...".

Authorize the General Manager to amend the professional services contract with Ascent Environmental for the Integrated Pest Management Program to increase the total contract amount by \$15,698 to a not to exceed amount of \$332,065, for consultation regarding safety of pesticides and for revisions to the program documents.

SUMMARY

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) has an existing agreement with Ascent Environmental for development of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and environmental review (Report R-13-06). An initial amendment was approved in 2013 to utilize expertise of a subconsultant to address an immediate concern of neighbors regarding protection of their drinking water, and that information was incorporated into the IPM Program (Report R-13-47). A second amendment extended the contract to December 31, 2014 to accommodate delays in the project while District staff was focused on completing the Vision Plan. This third amendment allows for the evaluation of alternative rodenticide products, response to in-depth public comments and revisions to the IPM Guidance Manual.

DISCUSSION

The District entered into an agreement with Ascent Environmental on February 6, 2013, for the development of a District-wide IPM program and environmental review for a not-to-exceed amount of \$303,947 (Report R-13-06). An initial amendment, adding \$12,420 to the contract, allowed District staff to provide additional information about the environmental fate of the herbicides glyphosate and aminopyralid and their potential to affect drinking water in response to spraying District staff conducted at the Galloway property of El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve. The spraying was conducted in a manner consistent with all regulations and with the District's best management practices to protect the environment. Insight gained from this evaluation has been added to the IPM Program.

The second amendment added no monies but extended the contract date from May 31, 2014 to December 31, 2014 in order to allow District staff more time to focus on the Vision Plan and also to develop the Weed Manager Database with Calflora (Report R-14-47) to assist in the monitoring and reporting requirements of the IPM Program.

This third amendment will provide funding to allow the evaluation of alternative rodenticide products and also to evaluate all pesticides in greater depth than originally proposed under the current agreement. Additional research and data review will be conducted and the IPM Program will be revised to include an explanation of the fate of these pesticides in air, water, soil, their potential effects on the environment, wildlife, the health of workers and the public, and how adverse effects can be avoided. This amendment will include funds for responding to possible in-depth comments on the IPM Environmental Impact Report regarding pesticide use and safety. It will also allow for reorganization of the IPM Guidance Manual to more clearly represent the pest management scenarios that various District departments undertake throughout the year.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds in the amount of \$15,698 for this contract amendment are available in the Natural Resources Department Adopted FY2014-15 Budget approved by the Board on March 26, 2014 (Report R-14-60).

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The FY2014-15 Action Plan scheduled full Board review of this District-wide project at key milestones, so committee review is not necessary.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice has been provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

A Draft Environmental Impact Report is currently under preparation and is expected to be released for a 45-day public review period in late September, 2014, extending through mid-November 2014.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board authorization, the General Manager will amend the contract with Ascent Environmental for an additional \$15,698.

Responsible Department Head:
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