



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-15-121
Meeting 15-21
August 12, 2015

AGENDA ITEM 8

AGENDA ITEM

Approval of Contract with Geocon Consultants, Inc. for Environmental Consulting and Hazardous Waste Disposal Services at the former Driscoll Ranch Area of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Geocon Consultants, Inc. for a total contract amount not to exceed \$69,000, which includes the project proposal amount of \$60,000 and a fifteen percent contingency amount of \$9,000 to perform environmental consulting and hazardous waste disposal services at the former Driscoll Ranch Area of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

SUMMARY

During excavation of one of the largest sites of the Measure AA Project 7-2: Fisheries Restoration project at the former Driscoll Ranch area, a previously unknown ranch dump site was encountered at the bottom of the drainage. Strong petroleum and solvent odors, stained soils, and waste debris were encountered and required work was suspended while initial site investigation work was completed. Based on the initial investigation, the assistance of an environmental consultant is required to complete the removal, characterization, and disposal of the contaminated debris. Staff recommends entering into a contract with Geocon Consultants, Inc. to complete these services.

MEASURE AA

The environmental consulting services being authorized under this contract are a component of Measure AA Project 7-2: Fisheries Restoration, which is part of the larger La Honda Creek MAA Portfolio Number 7, Driscoll Ranch Public Access, Endangered Wildlife Protection and Conservation Grazing. The 5-year Measure AA Project List was approved by the Board of Directors on October 29, 2014.

DISCUSSION

The District entered into a construction contract with Half Moon Bay Grading and Paving in June 2015 to implement the Driscoll Ranch Roads Sediment Reduction and Pond Restoration Project at the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (OSP) (see R-15-89). This project is being implemented to reduce sediment input from the rural road sources within the Harrington, Bogess and La Honda Creek drainages, which are all tributaries to San Gregorio Creek. San Gregorio

Creek is a sediment impaired watershed that is habitat for two federal and state endangered fish species: Coho salmon and steelhead. Sediment is a known limiting factor for these species as it impacts their ability to breed and thrive within a stream.

Construction began on July 7, 2015, with Half Moon Bay Grading and Paving quickly mobilizing and beginning work on priority sites. During excavation of one of the largest sites on July 30, 2015, a previously unknown ranch dump site was encountered at the bottom of the drainage. In the course of removing several vehicles from the fill soils at this site, strong petroleum and solvent odors, stained soils, and waste debris were encountered. Upon discovery of these unanticipated conditions, site work was suspended and staff contacted Geocon Consultants, Inc. (Geocon) to assist in an initial investigation and recommendations for completing the removal, characterization, and disposal of contaminated debris.

Geocon has previously provided environmental consulting services to the District for ranch waste debris and had recently completed assisting the District in hazardous waste issues at the Mindego Ranch area of Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Geocon was able to mobilize and investigate the encountered contaminated materials at La Honda Creek OSP under an existing contract, while staff prepared a contract for services for the La Honda Creek OSP Site. Construction delays due to unanticipated conditions have the potential to add considerable costs to the project because of the idled equipment and personnel, therefore rapid resolution to the hazardous conditions is not only in the best interests of protecting worker safety and the environment, but also protects the District's financial interests. Currently, the contractor's equipment and personnel costs at the La Honda site are approximately \$5,000 per day.

Given the time sensitivity and complexities associated with the environmental services required at La Honda Creek OSP, a sole source contract is recommended for Geocon to complete the remediation services for the dump site based on Geocon's familiarity with the Preserve site and nearby environs. Additionally, Geocon has successfully completed projects for the District at a fair and reasonable competitive price, and was immediately available to work on the project. In accordance with Administrative Policy 04-04 "Administrative Policy: Public Contract Bidding, Vendor, Professional Consultant Selection and Purchasing," and the Board's "Public Contract Bidding, Vendor, and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy," the General Manager is proposing to enter into a sole source contract with Geocon, due to the reasons discussed above. These Board and Administrative policies provide:

"Occasionally, ... supplies, material, equipment, or services are of a unique type, are of a proprietary nature, or are otherwise of such a specific design... or are specifically necessary for purposes of maintaining cost effective system consistency, so as to be available from only one source."

Given that Geocon has performed significant work on this project to date and has a unique familiarity with the Preserve, the General Manager recommends entering into a contract with Geocon to allow the project to continue forward in a cost-effective and efficient manner, at a fair and reasonable price.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact of approving this contract is a not-to-exceed \$69,000 project cost. The funding for the contract for services with Geocon Consultants, Inc. will come from the MAA 5-2: Upper La Honda Creek Grazing Infrastructure Project. The Natural Resources Department FY2015-16 budget for this project will require additional funds to be reallocated from other capital projects in order to fund this contract. Sufficient funds are available to be reallocated from the Upper La Honda Creek – Grazing Infrastructure project, which is not being completed this year due to the ongoing drought.

The not-to-exceed \$69,000 project cost estimate includes Geocon's services to observe, sample, and prepare regulatory reports of the contaminated soils removal, as well as estimated costs for transportation and disposal of contaminated materials, which accounts for nearly half of the projected costs.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The full Board authorized the District to enter into a grant agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Fisheries Restoration Grant Program in 2012. Due to the full Board's review, separate Board Committee review was not necessary for this contract award.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Awarding the bid and issuing a contract agreement for construction services for implementation of the Driscoll Ranch Roads Sediment Reduction and Pond Restoration Project is consistent with the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for Implementation of the La Honda Creek Master Plan, approved by the Board on August 22, 2012 (see Report R-12-83). No negative environmental impacts are anticipated from this project beyond what was analyzed in the MND/MMP.

NEXT STEPS

If the General Manager's recommendation is approved by the Board, a contract with Geocon Consultants, Inc will be executed to complete the scope of services described above.

Responsible Department Head:
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Prepared by:
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