



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-15-145
Meeting 15-25
October 14, 2015

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Agreement to Expand Volunteer Opportunities on District Preserves

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to approve a partnership agreement with Acterra for \$34,788, plus a 15% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$36,800 in Fiscal Year 2015-16 to manage volunteer outdoor service projects at two District preserves.

SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Volunteer Program recruits, coordinates, and leads hundreds of volunteers each year in assisting with the management of habitat restoration, trail, fence and other restoration projects. This partnership agreement would transfer the coordination and management of additional volunteer stewards participating in outdoor service projects from District staff to Acterra for a one-year trial period. The current District volunteer program would remain at its present size and level of support for the next year.

DISCUSSION

This District Operations Department continues to research options for increasing the amount of stewardship volunteer opportunities the agency provides. As the number of District maintenance projects and land purchases increase, so does the need for increased volunteer participation.

The Volunteer Partnership Development Plan is listed in the adopted Fiscal Year (FY)2015-16 Action Plan. The scope of this plan includes expansion of current programs and participant diversity by partnering with volunteer agencies like Acterra. The District's Volunteer Program Manager will oversee and manage this contract and the assigned habitat restoration work. When needed, Natural Resources staff will be consulted to ensure consistency with the District's recently adopted Integrated Pest Management Program.

Acterra Project Leads have experience in managing habitat restoration volunteer programs. In addition, their relationship with local schools will enable more youth to participate in stewardship of District lands. District staff has completed the initial stages of this program by working with Acterra to develop potential project lists, conduct site visits, and finalize the costs of a pilot partnership program to manage habitat restoration projects at two District preserves.

This one-year agreement would fund Acterra in the recruitment, coordination and leadership of local volunteers to control invasive, non-native vegetation at Russian Ridge and the Hawthorns Area of Windy Hill Open Space Preserve.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Natural Resources Department FY2015-16 budget includes sufficient funds for the anticipated \$36,800 cost of this project.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

No committee review required.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The treatment of invasive, non-native vegetation is covered by the District's Integrated Pest Management Program and Environmental Impact Report adopted by the Board on November 19, 2014. Acterra will follow all conditions set out by Integrated Pest Management Program.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will be authorized to enter into an agreement with Acterra to manage volunteer outdoor service projects to remove invasive, non-native vegetation at both Russian Ridge and Hawthorns. If this program is successful, staff will seek additional partnership opportunities for future programs and projects.

Responsible Department Head:
Michael Newburn, Operations Manager

Prepared by:
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