



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-17-19  
Meeting 17-08  
March 22, 2017

## AGENDA ITEM 11

### AGENDA ITEM

Partnership Agreement with the Student Conservation Association to Provide Geographic Information System Services

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. G. ...", is written over the end of the "GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION" heading.

Authorize the General Manager to execute a partnership agreement with the Student Conservation Association for a not-to-exceed amount of \$57,183 and include this funding in the FY2017-18 budget.

#### SUMMARY

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) has proposed a partnership agreement to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) services to the District. The services would consist of field mapping of natural features and infrastructure such as invasive non-native vegetation, bridges, culverts, and similar infrastructure. This project will employ local students from underserved communities, who would be provided with technological training and job-skills development by two SCA staff members, while doing work that is of value to the District. The agreement is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$57,183. Since work will not begin until July 2017, this funding will be included in the FY2017-18 budget. SCA fundraising has the potential to offset this amount by up to \$10,000.

#### DISCUSSION

The SCA is a nation-wide program that provides young people with the opportunity to work in natural environments and promotes an ethos of stewardship of natural areas. Last year the program provided over 1.5 million service hours nationwide in mutually beneficial collaborations with government agencies.

In the proposed partnership agreement, the SCA would employ eight to ten students from underserved communities who would be trained to use Geographic Positioning System (GPS) tools to map a variety of natural features and District infrastructure items such as non-native vegetation, bridges, culverts, and more. The students would be supervised by two SCA staff members and would be transported in SCA vehicles. The SCA would take full responsibility for managing the students. The project is anticipated to last for five weeks, with an anticipated start date of July 10, 2017. However, SCA student recruitment and planning for the project will begin spring 2017. Costs include a stipend for student participants, transportation expenses, project supplies and equipment, SCA uniform shirts, and wages for the field leaders.

The data collected by the students would be entered into the District's GIS system to allow for easier and more efficient location and inventory of the items. The students would have the opportunity to work with District staff to learn more about GIS skills and technology. District staff would work with SCA staff to identify areas that need to be mapped.

An additional benefit to this program would be to expose students to careers in the park and open space management field, and to encourage the students to obtain the education necessary to apply successfully for jobs in the future.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

If the Board approves the partnership agreement and approves the funding as part of the FY2017-18 budget, then a not-to-exceed amount of \$57,183 will be expended to execute this agreement. The SCA may be able to offset some of this funding with their own fundraising efforts; however, it is recommended that the full amount be budgeted in the event that the SCA is unable to secure grant funding.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The SCA agreement was not reviewed by Committee; however, the Legislative, Funding, and Public Affairs Committee will review the FY2017-18 proposed budget, which will include the funding for this agreement.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **NEXT STEPS**

If approved, the Partner Agreement with the SCA will be executed and \$57,183 included in the FY 2017-18 budget.

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