



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-18-72  
Meeting 18-27  
June 27, 2018

## AGENDA ITEM 6

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Award of Contract for Fire Ecology Services: Prescribed Fire Program Creation and Development

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS *den*

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Spatial Informatics Group, LLC of Pleasanton, California to provide fire ecology services in an amount not to exceed \$101,250.
2. Authorize a 15% contingency of \$15,188, to be awarded only if necessary to cover unforeseen conditions, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$116,438.

### SUMMARY

Staff needs assistance from a qualified consultant to provide expert advice and best management practices for fire ecology and management to develop the District's Prescribed Fire Program. A Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) was issued on May 11, 2018. Staff conducted an optional pre-proposal conference on May 29, 2018. The General Manager recommends contracting with Spatial Informatics Group, LLC to provide expert advice and best management practices of the proposed Program in the not to exceed amount of \$116,438 over a three-year period beginning in FY 2018-19. There are sufficient funds in the project budget to cover Recommended Action 1 and expenditures anticipated in FY2018-19. However, future budget adjustment may be necessary to cover the contingency amount in Recommended Action 2.

### BACKGROUND

Periodic fires were a part of the historic natural ecological processes on District preserve lands; as a result, many species evolved with fire adaptations and need periodic fire for renewal. Among the ecological benefits of periodic fire are opening forests to new generations of younger trees, purging grassland of invasive shrubs, and stimulating seed germination and shoot growth in chaparral. Fire-dependent and fire-adapted communities degrade without the regenerative effects that fire provides, resulting in a reduction of biodiversity within both the plant and animal communities. Additionally, wildland fuels in unburned areas can build up to such high levels that when a wildfire occurs, it can have devastating effects. The District plans to take proactive steps to reduce the severity and intensity of wildland fires, similar to ones recently seen in the North Bay and Southern California, as well as provide training opportunities for suppression activities by responding agencies.

If approved by the Board, this contract will assist the District in establishing a Prescribed Fire Program to address management of open space lands to meet the goals described above. Consultant will participate in both internal and public meetings, serving as the subject matter expert on fire ecology, provide recommendations for any changes to Board policy including the District's Resource Management Policies and Goals, and provide expert responses to public comments that are technical in nature.

## DISCUSSION

Staff issued a Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) on May 11, 2018. Staff circulated the RFQP through email and posting on the Midpen website. Staff conducted an optional, pre-proposal conference on May 29, 2018. Five (5) firms attended and four (4) firms submitted proposals. Staff evaluated the qualifications of each proposer, the quality of the proposal, the implementation approach, and the overall team expertise.

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Chloeta Fire, LLC	Midwest City, Ok	\$ 138,066.78
Marty Ecological Consulting, Inc.	Sacramento, CA	\$ 45,370.00
Spatial Informatics Group, LLC	Pleasanton, CA	\$ 101,250.00
Wildland Res Mgt	Reno, NV	\$ 106,595.00

Evaluation criteria were determined prior to the release of the RFPQ that included the quality of the proposal, implementation approach to the project, and the implementation expertise of the firm. Although Marty Ecological Consulting was the lowest bidder, the firm's implementation approach did not meet the needs and intent of the project objectives and requirements as described in the RFPQ.

Spatial Informatics Group, LLC was deemed most qualified and best suited for the project based on their response to the RFQP, proposed project approach, and qualifications, and at a fair and reasonable price.

The District will be contracting with a separate consultant to provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) services through an additional RFPQ process in summer of 2018.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 budget includes \$116,000 for services and supplies, and additional funds are allocated in the three-year Capital Improvement and Action Plan as outlined in the table below. There are sufficient funds in the project budget to cover recommended action and expenditures anticipated in FY2018-19. However, a future estimated budget adjustment of \$116,000 will be necessary to cover the anticipated project expenditures in FY2020-21.

	<b>PRIOR YEAR ACTUALS</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>	<b>FY18-19</b>	<b>FY19-20</b>	<b>FY20-21</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Prescribed Fire Program Development Budget	\$0	\$85,000	\$116,000	\$116,000	\$0	\$317,000
Spent-to-Date ( <i>as of 6/12/2018</i> ):		\$0				\$0
Encumbrances:		\$0				\$0
Proposed Award of Contract (including 15% contingency):		\$0	\$38,813	\$39,589	\$38,036	\$116,438
<b>Budget Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$77,187</b>	<b>\$76,411</b>	<b>(\$38,036)</b>	<b>\$200,562</b>

The recommended action is not funded by Measure AA.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board committee.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Public notice was sent to 213 interested parties and tenants by postal or electronic mail.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

This award of contract is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Following Board approval, the General Manager will execute a contract with Spatial Informatics Group, LLC of Pleasanton, California for a three-year period beginning in FY 2018-19. In addition, staff will update and maintain the interested parties list for Fire Management for all future outreach efforts for the development and creation of a Prescribed Fire Program. With regard to performing environmental review of the consultant's recommendations, staff plans to release a RFPQ for CEQA services before the end of this fiscal year. .

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