



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-52
Meeting 25-12
April 23, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Authorize the General Manager to Amend a Contract with United States Geological Survey for additional Genomic Monitoring of San Francisco Garter Snakes to support repopulation efforts for expanding the regional San Francisco Garter Snake population to enhance long-term survivorship

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with United States Geological Survey in the amount of \$175,000 to provide additional genomic monitoring of San Francisco garter snakes surveyed in Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve for a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$373,364.

DISCUSSION

At the regular meeting of January 11, 2023, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) authorized a partnership agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide biological monitoring for the San Francisco garter snake (SFGS). Since entering into this agreement, USGS has successfully resurveyed the Russian Ridge SFGS population, developed a Habitat Management Plan for special status reptile and amphibian species at Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve, and investigated the suitability of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve as a potential introduction site for SFGS. This work supports the translocation of SFGS to protect existing populations and start new populations. Translocations involve the intentional capture, movement, and release of wild-caught animals into the wild to re-establish a population that has been lost or augment an existing population. In this case, instead of translocating individuals, pregnant females would be captured. The young would be raised at the San Francisco Zoo and the female and some young would be returned to the capture site and the remaining young would be located to a new site to support existing or start new SFGS populations.

At the regular meeting of October 23, 2024, the Board approved entering into a complimentary partnership agreement with National Park Service (NPS) – Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to collaborate on recovery actions for SFGS, folding in NPS/GGNRA lands to perform part of the Phase I recovery actions ([R-24-128](#)). At that time, the Board also authorized a monetary contribution toward the larger SFGS recovery effort in an amount not to exceed \$175,000, with the understanding that a contract amendment with USGS would be brought to the Board at a later date for this amount. Hence, the District is now returning to the Board for

authorization to amend the contract with USGS as previously proposed. The data gathered by USGS will provide the baseline diversity of populations through genetic monitoring and assessments that can be used in an adaptive management approach for long-term SFGS management and monitoring.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget contains:

- ☒ sufficient funds.
- ☐ insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of unspent funds from other project budgets to cover for this expenditure.
- ☐ insufficient funds; approval of this item requires a fiscal year budget augmentation.
- ☒ future fiscal year budgets will include additional funds to complete the contracted work.

Measure AA

- ☒ No, this contract is not part of a Measure AA project.
- ☐ Yes, this contract is part of a Measure AA project.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

USGS's unique expertise with reptile and amphibian population monitoring, past collaboration, and familiarity with the work sites makes them uniquely qualified and they have confirmed they are available to perform these services in the requested timeline to meet District needs.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

- October 23, 2024: The Board authorized an agreement with NPS to implement recovery actions of SFGS ([R-24-128](#)); [meeting minutes](#).
- January 11, 2023: The Board authorized a Partnership Agreement with USGS for SFGS monitoring and population assessments ([R-23-05](#)); [meeting minutes](#).
- November 20, 2013: The Board authorized initial SFGS surveys at Russian Ridge ([R-13-105](#)); [meeting minutes](#).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Entering into a partnership agreement is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, this work is categorically exempt from CEQA under Article 19, Section 153306.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, the General Manager will amend the USGS contract to provide the additional scope of services as outlined. Concurrently, USGS will collect pregnant SFGS from Cloverdale Ranch Open Space Preserve to initiate head starting of young at the San Francisco Zoo.

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