



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-04
Meeting 26-01
January 14, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5

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Authorize the General Manager to Amend a Contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) for image cataloging services on the Wildlife Picture Index project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to amend a contract with AECOM to provide additional wildlife cataloging services and increase the contract amount by \$35,500, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$60,500.

DISCUSSION

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) uses wildlife cameras in multiple locations throughout our preserves. Cameras are used as a tool to monitor wildlife activity and record environmental conditions for scientific and educational purposes. An intensive camera array was strategically installed at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (Preserve) in 2020 to inform ongoing management of mountain lions and recreation. The cameras are placed with visitor privacy in mind, aimed low to capture animals and to minimize capturing visitor's faces. If pictures contain human faces, they are blurred to maintain visitor privacy. Pictures with images of visitors are logged noting the presence of humans and can be deleted once all data are analyzed. These cameras have generated nearly 5 million images over the last five years that require manual identification, sorting and cataloging in preparation for analysis. These images provide information on the diversity, density and distribution of wildlife within a high visitation Preserve.

Cataloging and managing the large number of images generated by the camera array at Rancho San Antonio is handled through a variety of mechanisms:

- As part of the District's partnership with UC Santa Cruz to study mountain lions, students have been assigned images to catalog since 2021.
- Additionally, District volunteers have been cataloging images since 2023, contributing to date over 1,600 hours to these efforts.
- In the fall of 2025, AECOM was awarded a contract under the General Manager's authority for \$25,000 to perform additional image cataloging services, scheduled to be completed in April 2026.

On November 3, 2025, the District received a grant from the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation for \$50,000, with \$35,500 of the grant being allocated to the Wildlife Picture Index efforts to offset

the increase in contract amount. Therefore, the District is now proposing a contract amendment to allow AECOM to perform additional image cataloging that exceeds the level of effort assumed in the original contract for a new total, not-to-exceed contract amount of \$60,500. The amendment will address the larger than anticipated number of images that remain to be cataloged for their inclusion in the Rancho San Antonio mountain lion analysis work.

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 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.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

On August 6, 2025, the District emailed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to three firms from the biological pre-qualified list. Two firms responded to the solicitation with an hourly rate to perform the project scope, which had a not-to-exceed threshold of \$25,000.

Consultant	Average Proposed Hourly Fee
AECOM Technical Services, Inc.	\$127.50
MIG, Inc.	\$128.00

The District entered into a contract with AECOM on September 9, 2025, with an initial expiration date of December 31, 2025. The additional funds allocated to this project by the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, will fund a three-month extension. The amended contract is set to expire March 15, 2026.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

Camera data and requisite cataloging is identified in the Human-Mountain Lion Interaction Study and Management Plan Award of Contract (R-20-79) and subsequent annual updates (R-25-39). Camera data is being used to estimate the number of individual mountain lions within RSA using a wildlife camera grid.

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

Pending Board approval, the General Manager will execute the contract amendment with AECOM for continued work cataloging images for the Wildlife Picture Index project at Rancho San Antonio until its completion in April 2026. Future District camera projects will be substantially smaller and will not generate the same amount of images. Camera management and image cataloging for future camera projects will be performed by consultants and included in their Board approved contract scope of services.

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