



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-23-84
Meeting 23-20
August 9, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 9

AGENDA ITEM

Reject All Bids for the Ecologically Sensitive Wildland Fire Vegetation Management Contract

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

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Reject all bids received for the Ecologically Sensitive Wildland Fire Vegetation Management contract.

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Ecologically Sensitive Wildland Fire Vegetation Management contract is to implement a variety of district-wide fuel reduction projects under the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program. Contractors were solicited and required to attend a mandatory bid walk. Of the four contractors to attend, only one chose to bid and their base bid and unit pricing were significantly higher than previous bids for similar work. Staff have determined that the scope of work can be accomplished more affordably utilizing an existing contract with the San Jose Conservation Corps for general labor, and therefore request that the Board of Directors (Board) reject the bid.

DISCUSSION

A request for bids was issued on May 8th, 2023. Four contractors attended the mandatory bid walk on May 16th and one submitted a bid on June 15th. The contractor's base bid is 169% higher than the FY24 budget and the proposed unit rates were on average 34% higher than an existing contract with a similar scope of work. The General Manager (GM) does not recommend entering into a contract at these rates.

Additionally, the GM has determined that the need for the contract is reduced because a portion of the scope of work will be performed by a different contractor as part of the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Forest Health Grant project.

In lieu of re-bidding this work, the GM has identified the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC) as a possible appropriate alternative project partner. The SJCC has extensive experience working on projects with a similar scope of work on District lands and have previously been identified as a priority partner. Taking this into account, staff will utilize the existing contract with the SJCC to complete the remaining scope of work that was intended to be performed under this contract.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation.

PRIOR BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

None.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, the District has determined that the wildland fire fuel treatment activities as contemplated herein is within the scope of the approved Wildland Fire Resiliency Program, and the Final Environmental Impact Report to the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program, and Addenda thereto, adopted by Board Resolution No. 2114 on May 12, 2021; and Integrated Pest Management Program, and the Final Environmental Impact Report to the Integrated Pest Management Program, adopted by Board Resolution No. 14-37 on December 10, 2014.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will reject all bids. Staff will utilize an existing contract with the San Jose Conservation Corps to complete the scope of work.

Responsible Department Head:

Brandon Stewart, Land and Facilities Department Manager

Prepared by/Staff Contact:

Michael Gorman, Area Manager, Land and Facilities Department