



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-13-06  
Meeting 13-01  
January 9, 2013

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### AGENDA ITEM

Authorization to Award a Contract to Ascent Environmental, Inc., for Environmental Consulting Services for the Integrated Pest Management Program

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc., of Sacramento, CA, in the amount of \$303,947 to prepare an Integrated Pest Management program and associated environmental review documents.

### SUMMARY

Expertise in pest management and associated environmental review are needed to develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to guide work on District preserves and in District buildings. A Request for Qualifications and Proposals was issued to selected biological and environmental consulting firms; five proposals were received. After a thorough review of the proposals, staff recommends awarding the contract to Ascent Environmental, Inc., (Ascent) of Sacramento, California. Ascent has extensive experience preparing environmental reviews and has a team of subconsultants who are experts in the careful and efficient management of plant and animal pests in park and wildland environments.

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

Stewardship of District lands, structures, and facilities necessitates the management of many types of pests, including invasive plants, feral pigs, stinging insects, rodents, and ants. A formal Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program will ensure consistent staff implementation of best management practices and sound decision making as these types of activities are carried out, as well as allow the District to communicate this to the public while ensuring that the work is conducted in a safe and efficient manner. The fundamental goal of IPM is to use the least toxic pest management techniques to achieve acceptable levels of pest control.

#### Consultant Selection

A Request for Qualifications and Proposals was issued on October 22, 2012 to 18 consultants with expertise and prior experience in pest management and environmental review. Five

proposals were received on November 19, 2012 as listed below in ascending order of cost:

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost Proposal</b>
TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc.	Menlo Park	\$282,415
Baefsky & Associates	Orinda	\$293,493
Panorama Environmental, Inc.	San Francisco	\$299,653
URS Corporation	Oakland	\$299,864
Ascent Environmental	Sacramento	\$303,947

Ascent Environmental, TRA Environmental Sciences, Inc., and URS Corporation were invited to present their proposals in detail to a review committee on December 7, 2012. Ascent assembled the best team with expertise in both the application of IPM techniques in wildland environments and environmental review. Ascent's subconsultants have also successfully worked together on other vegetation management projects for regional park agencies.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The District's FY2012-13 Budget for the IPM Program is \$80,000 and the projected FY2013-14 Budget for the project is \$280,000. The contract with Ascent Environmental for development of the IPM Program and completion of an Environmental Impact Report is \$303,947 across two fiscal years.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

No Board Committee review was required for this portion of the Project.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice of this Agenda Item was provided per the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The scope of services for this contract will include completion of an Environmental Impact Report to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board approval, the General Manager will be authorized to enter into a contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc., to provide professional consulting services to develop an IPM Program and environmental review.

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Same