



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-13-47
Meeting 13-08
May 8, 2013

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Amend the Contract Agreement with Ascent Environmental to Increase the Total Contract amount by \$12,420 to a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$316,367 for Consultation Regarding Protection of Groundwater Wells During Spraying of Herbicides

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to amend the professional services contract with Ascent Environmental on the Integrated Pest Management Program as follows:

1. Increase the total contract amount by \$12,420, from \$303,947 to a not to exceed amount of \$316,367, for consultation regarding protection of groundwater during spraying of herbicides.

SUMMARY

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) has an existing agreement with Ascent Environmental for development of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and environmental review over the next year (see Report R-13-06). In the meantime, several District neighbors have expressed concerns and raised questions about protection of their drinking water groundwater wells related to spraying of herbicides as part of the slender false brome program. This contract amendment will provide for expanded consultation with the experts on the IPM team to specifically address these new issues and concerns raised by the public and incorporate this information into the IPM Program.

DISCUSSION

The District entered into an agreement with Ascent Environmental on February 6, 2013, for the development of a District-wide IPM program and environmental review for a not to exceed amount of \$303,947 (see Report R-13-06). In the meantime, staff has been making revisions to the slender false brome program (to be reviewed by the Board on May 22, 2013), and District neighbors have raised questions about the environmental fate of the herbicides glyphosate and aminopyralid and their potential to affect drinking water groundwater wells.

On November 2, 2012, District staff sprayed approximately one acre of slender false brome with 0.117 gallons of Roundup ProMax (active ingredient glyphosate) at the Galloway property of El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve. The spraying was conducted in a manner consistent with all regulations and with the District's best management practices to protect the environment.

Although District staff did not know about the groundwater wells at the time, the spraying was well outside of the recommended 15-foot buffer zone around drinking water sources. In January 2013, neighbors contacted the District with their concerns about potential contamination of groundwater wells on their adjacent properties at a distance of approximately 200 and 500 feet from the area that was sprayed. District staff met with concerned neighbors in February to describe the work and precautions taken during the spraying operation, and have continued to discuss District practices to protect the environment. However, neighbors continue to express concern about their groundwater wells. In the meantime, District staff is currently not spraying any herbicides at the Galloway property.

This contract amendment will allow staff to receive advice from experts on the IPM team on the environmental fate of these two herbicides as well as the potential risk to groundwater wells and what additional steps, if any, are necessary to protect them. The contract amendment would also assist District staff in determining if testing of the groundwater wells is advisable and how to conduct such testing.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this contract amendment are available in the Natural Resources Department Adopted FY2013-14 Budget approved by the Board on March 13, 2013 (Report R-13-35).

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

Results from this additional analysis and recommendations will be included within the IPM Program, in addition to the slender false brome program, and will be reviewed by the Planning and Natural Resources Committee during review of the IPM Program.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice has been provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and no environmental review is required.

NEXT STEP

Upon Board authorization, the General Manager will amend the contract with Ascent Environmental for an additional \$12,420.

Responsible Department Manager:
Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager

Prepared by:
Cindy Roessler, Senior Resource Management Specialist

Contact person:
Same as above