



R-13-75
Meeting 13-20
August 28, 2013

AGENDA ITEM 7

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Authorization to Award a Contract to Confluence Restoration for Planting and Landscape Maintenance Services for the Mindego Gateway Staging Area and Commemorative Site located at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Confluence Restoration, from Santa Cruz, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$98,143 for planting and landscape maintenance for the Mindego Gateway site located at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve (Preserve).

SUMMARY

A Request for Bids for planting and landscape maintenance services was issued on July 12, 2013. Two (2) bid proposals were received on August 5, 2013. Evaluation revealed that the low bidder, Confluence Restoration, presented a complete and responsive bid package. Therefore, staff recommends awarding the contract for planting and landscape maintenance services for the Mindego Gateway Staging Area and Commemorative Site to Confluence Restoration for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$98,143. The total contract amount includes: a) the base bid of \$75,870, (comprised of \$13,470 to plant District-supplied native plants, plus \$62,400 for three years' landscape maintenance thereof), b) an additive alternate of \$17,600 for landscape maintenance at the Commemorative Site, and c) a 5% contingency of \$4,673.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Mindego Gateway Staging Area is a key component in extending public access into the Mindego Ranch area of the Preserve. Located 1.4 miles south of Skyline Boulevard along Alpine Road, the new staging area will provide parking and amenities for visitors to the Preserve. This contract would provide for planting and maintenance of the staging area plants. This contract also includes maintenance of the adjacent Commemorative Site.

Planting was removed from the Staging Area scope of work for the grading contractor because staff felt that the more efficient approach would be to bid the planting and future maintenance work together under a contractor specialized in landscape work. By doing so, the landscape contractor installing the plants would then also be responsible for maintaining them. The District would provide the plants to the contractor, who would then plant and maintain them for three

years. This work would include watering, weeding, plant replacement as needed, and monitoring of plant health.

Contractor Selection

The Request for Bids was issued on July 12, 2013 and was sent to nine (9) contractors and five (5) builders' exchanges. A legal notice was placed in the Half Moon Bay Review and the San Jose Mercury News. The Invitation to Bid was also posted on the District website.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at the Project site on July 19, 2013, and was attended by five (5) contractors. Sealed bids were due on August 5, 2013, and two (2) bids were received with the results as follows:

Bidder		Location	Total Base Bid	Percent Difference from Estimate of \$65,000
1.	Confluence Restoration	Santa Cruz, CA	TOTAL: \$75,870; Planting: \$13,470 Maintenance: \$62,400	+16% Not Included -0.4%
2.	Ecological Concerns	Santa Cruz, CA	TOTAL: \$82,400 Planting: \$29,950 Maintenance: \$52,450	+26% Not Included -19%

The bidders presented total base bids that were higher than the original estimate primarily because the scope of the original estimate only included the cost of maintenance, not the planting. In addition, the amount of browse protection (i.e., cages to protect plants from browsing deer and to ensure long term health and success) was greater than originally budgeted.

Upon review of the bid proposals and confirmation of the contractors' qualifications, staff recommends awarding the contract to Confluence Restoration, who is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2013-14 budget contains funds to cover the cost associated with planting (\$13,470), which Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is fully reimbursing as part of the Mindego Gateway Project consistent with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between POST and the District. As part of the MOU, POST agreed to fund up to \$15,000 a year for ten years to cover maintenance costs for a total of \$150,000. Staff is currently working with POST to "front-load" the maintenance funding to provide \$26,600 per year for the first three years to cover the higher initial cost of plant establishment and maintenance. The remaining \$70,200 would be divided evenly across the last seven years of maintenance. The POST maintenance funding will cover the cost for Confluence Restoration to complete maintenance in FY 2013-14. If POST does not agree to increase the maintenance funding amount as proposed, the District will need to add \$11,600 in the District budget in both FY 2014-15 and 2015-16 to augment POST's \$15,000. In this case, the District would be reimbursed for the maintenance cost over the 10 year term.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Planning and Natural Resources (PNR) Committee has previously reviewed the Staging Area project, including the planting work.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

CEQA COMPLIANCE

A Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted on June 13, 2012 (see Report R-12-37), which included the Mindego Gateway Staging Area and Commemorative Site projects, which includes the planting work. A Notice of Determination was filed with the San Mateo County Clerk Recorder on June 15, 2012.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will enter into a contract with Confluence Restoration to perform planting and landscape maintenance work for the Mindego Gateway Staging Area project and landscape maintenance work at the Commemorative Site, scheduled to begin in October 2013, once required paperwork is received. Maintenance will continue through the winter of 2016.

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