



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-14-47
Meeting 14-08
March 21, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEM

Cooperative Agreement with Calflora to Develop the Weed Manager Database and a Customized Pest Database for the District

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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Authorize the General Manager to approve a cooperative agreement with Calflora for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$31,000 to develop the Weed Manager Database, also customized as a pest database, for the District's Integrated Pest Management Program.

SUMMARY

The District is one of several cooperating agencies funding Calflora to develop Weed Manager, an electronic system to track infestations and the treatment of invasive weeds. Calflora is a non-profit organization responsible for developing and maintaining the Calflora **website**, which has information on the conservation, education and appreciation of over seven thousand species of native and non-native plants found in California. As the District develops its Integrated Pest Management Program, this type of tool would enable the District to track and report weeds and pests and their management in the preserves over time. This agreement would also provide for customization of Weed Manager to meet the District's specific needs for a pest database.

DISCUSSION

This agreement includes funding the development of Weed Manager and customization for the District's specific purposes. The District's customized version of Weed Manager will be essential to implement the Integrated Pest Management Program currently under development by the District. Weed Manager will allow reporting of pest infestations and treatment throughout the District over monthly, annual and multi-year time periods. It will allow tracking of the use of pesticides and non-pesticide methods and reporting of such treatments. No other weed infestation and tracking system is currently available that works efficiently, is specific to California, and can be shared with other similar organizations such as the National Park Service, California State Parks and Marin Municipal Water District.

As one of the subscribing organizations in the development of Weed Manager, the District will have the ability to track its weed and pest infestations and their treatment in a District-specific and internal copy of the system. The District can also choose to share such data with other subscribing organizations and other Calflora users, if so desired, and integrate information from other organizations in the effective response to weed infestations.

Working closely with Calflora, the partner agencies will have an important influence on the development of the Weed Manager product. By collaborating on both system design and

funding, participating agencies will help build a product that accommodates their various requirements and workflows, on top of a core standard architecture.

Through its eight years of work on the Calflora online database, Calflora has the unique experience and ability to develop this plant-based system for multiple organizations and in an electronic format. The existing Calflora database at www.calflora.org is the most visited online database for California plants, already houses other invasive plant data management tools, and has a familiar, user friendly interface.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds to develop the Integrated Pest Management Program are included in the FY2013-14 and proposed FY 2014-15 budgets as follows: \$10,000 in FY 2013-14 and \$15,000 in FY 2014-15. If additional funds are needed for the Phase III customization tasks, these will be requested in the FY 2015-16 budget. Development of Weed Manager is also being funded by other organizations. At this time, Calflora is in the final stages of negotiating cooperative agreements with the following organizations for an estimated total of \$70,000: Marin Municipal Water District, California Invasive Plant Council, National Park Service, US Forest Service.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

No committee review required.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This project consists of basic data collection and resource evaluation which will not result in any disturbance to an environmental resource; developing a system to collect information on pests and their treatment will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15306 Information Collection, CEQA 15060(c)(2)].

Any proposed future actions as a result of information provided by the data collection will be subject to environmental review prior to any physical implementation. Such potential future pest management activities are being evaluated under the environmental review under preparation for the Integrated Pest Management Program.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will be authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with Calflora to develop the Weed Manager database and a customized pest database for the District.

Responsible Department Head:
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