



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-15-37  
Meeting 15-6  
March 11, 2015

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Amendment to Vegetation Management Agreement with Ecological Concerns Inc. for a Total Authorized Amount of \$142,970.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. J. ...", written over the printed text of the recommendation header.

Authorize the General Manager to amend the existing agreement with Ecological Concerns Inc. to increase the agreement amount by \$50,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$142,970, for an additional year of vegetation management services on multiple District preserves.

#### SUMMARY

The District has an agreement with Ecological Concerns to manage vegetation on three District preserves. The original agreement was executed under the General Manager's authority on April 6, 2013 to control invasive vegetation at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, purple star thistle and distaff thistle at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, and manage the restored tree farm area at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. This amendment will extend these services for one year, including the addition of purple star thistle control at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and discontinuing the tree farm restoration area management which is now at a level that can be managed by volunteers and field staff.

#### DISCUSSION

The existing agreement with Ecological Concerns Inc. was approved by the Board of Directors on March 27, 2013 for two years of vegetation management for \$92,970 (see R-13-25). It provides for management of invasive plants on Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, the tree farm restoration portion of Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve and the Mindego Ranch portion of Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. The original bid process was competitive and sent to eleven selected vegetation management firms.

Staff recommends extending the existing agreement for one year and revising the project list to keep this time-sensitive work moving forward while Natural Resources staff concentrates on implementation of a new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, including the hiring of a new IPM Coordinator. The contractor has exhibited satisfactory performance to date, and will be trained on any new procedures associated with the IPM Program. The project list will be revised to add the management of invasive plants at the Founder's Circle at Mindego Ranch and at target areas around ponds on the Driscoll Ranch at La Honda Open Space Preserve. The tree restoration portion of Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve will be removed from the project list

since the amount of invasive plants at this site has been reduced to a level that can now be handled by volunteers and field staff.

Continuation of this contract will provide best pricing, is at a competitive rate, and will assure continuity of service. Ecological Concerns Inc. has agreed to continue working at the same hourly rate as in previous years which is slightly less than another contractor has recently charged for similar work. Procedures of the new IPM Program and the type of work and field conditions of the new project areas are similar to those under which the contractor has performed well over the past two years. In particular, the contractor has consistently met the District's expectations regarding protection of sensitive aquatic wildlife such as the California red-legged frog and coordination with biological monitors.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Approval of the General Manager's recommendation will cost the District a not-to-exceed amount of \$142,970, which includes the original project proposal amount of \$92,970 plus expanded scope costs of \$50,000. The FY 2015-16 Natural Resources Department budget includes \$50,000 for this additional work and will be considered by the Board on March 25, 2015.

### **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

There was no Committee review for this agenda item. The original contract was approved by the full Board.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

### **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Work conducted under this agreement will be consistent with the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Integrated Pest Management Program, adopted by the Board on November 25, 2014.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board authorization, the contract with Ecological Concerns will be amended to continue invasive vegetation management on District preserves.

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