



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-02
Meeting 25-01
January 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting for a Districtwide Survey and Assessment of Sensitive-Status Herpetofauna (Amphibians and Reptiles) Species

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting to survey and assess the sensitive-status herpetofauna on District lands for a not-to-exceed base contract amount of \$224,802.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency in the amount of \$22,480 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$247,282.

DISCUSSION

Many amphibian and reptile species (also called herpetofauna) rely on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) preserves and their natural resources to survive and reproduce. Several of these species are regarded as “special status”, meaning they are considered rare enough to be formally protected by state and/or federal law. Knowledge of how populations of these herpetofauna are persisting primarily relies on inventories of species presence and abundance over time. In 2000 and 2007, the District contracted Seymour and Westphal to survey aquatic species of herpetofauna to document and assess their population statuses. This effort was expansive, contributing to regional understanding of species health, and provided a foundation of data that has informed District habitat restoration and population monitoring. Nearly 20 years have passed since these prior surveys, and 27,000 acres of land have been acquired since the last District-wide survey. Under the proposed contract, Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting would survey properties acquired over the last 20 years for potential habitat and presence of special status herpetofauna, as well as measure how the previously surveyed populations have persisted since the prior efforts.

After surveys are completed, Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting would develop a final technical report that incorporates pre-existing data with new survey findings. This report would also provide management recommendations for habitat management and enhancement, invasive species impact prevention, and other opportunities for population improvement and resiliency. All data collected during the surveys would be incorporated into the District’s databases for further utilization.

The General Manager recommends a contingency of \$22,480 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, if required, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$247,282.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget contains:

- sufficient funds.
- insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of unspent funds from other project budgets to cover for this expenditure.
- insufficient funds; approval of this item requires a fiscal year budget augmentation.
- future fiscal year budgets will include additional funds to complete the contracted work.

Measure AA

- No, this contract is not part of a Measure AA project.
- Yes, this contract is part of a Measure AA project.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

The District issued a Request for Proposals and Qualifications (RFPQ) on October 2, 2024. The District received five proposals on November 10, 2024, as follows:

Firm	Location	Base Fee	Optional Tasks	Total
Applied Technology & Science	San Francisco, CA	\$255,800	\$46,430	\$302,230
BioMaAs Inc	San Francisco, CA	\$224,623	\$11,636	\$236,259
Biosearch Environmental Consulting	Santa Cruz, CA	\$219,670	Estimate not provided	\$219,670+
Condor Country Consulting, Inc	Martinez, CA	\$171,916	\$61,476	\$225,000
Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting	Berkeley, CA	\$212,002	\$12,800	\$224,802

Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting was deemed the most qualified consultant to provide the services requested and their proposal clearly outlines their understanding of the project and their proposed approach to fulfilling the project scope. This proposal offers an organized and comprehensive approach to meet project goals, includes professionals from the previous survey efforts and other species experts, and compliments the District’s mission by offering opportunities to include students and volunteers in the field. These services are offered at a fair and reasonable price and provide the District cost savings by utilizing standardized rapid habitat assessment forms to ensure survey efficiency.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

None

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The award of this contract is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. Additionally, the proposed surveys to be provided by the consultant are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article 19, Section 15306:

Section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

NEXT STEPS

Following Board approval, the General Manager would enter a contract for professional services with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting. The first task under this contract is estimated to begin in February 2025.

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