



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-24-100  
Meeting 24-21  
August 14, 2024

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### AGENDA ITEM

Amendment of Contract for Cultural Resources Services at Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *BM Se*

Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with Environmental Science Associates, Inc., of San Francisco, CA, to increase the current contract amount of \$46,500 by \$51,500 to conduct additional cultural resources investigations, monitoring, and reporting at Long Ridge Open Space Preserve for a total contract amount not to exceed \$98,000.

### DISCUSSION

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District)'s Long Ridge Forest Health and Enhanced Fire Management Treatment Project (Project) includes three components: fuel reduction treatments, shaded fuel break installation, and oak woodland restoration. The goals of the Project are to restore the dominance of native oak species, reduce fuel loads, measure the response of oaks to the removal of encroaching Douglas-fir, and increase the resilience of the natural communities at Long Ridge to the impacts of climate change, including potential wildland fire, drought, and increased temperatures.

The activities associated with the Project have been evaluated under the Wildland Fire Resilience Program Environmental Impact Report (WFRP EIR). The removal of vegetation for forest health and fire resilience can result in ground disturbance and potential impacts to cultural resources. The WFRP EIR includes mitigation measures addressing these potential impacts. Environmental Science Associates, Inc. (ESA) was selected through a Request for Qualifications and Proposals process in fall 2023 to provide cultural resource services fulfilling these mitigation requirements. The initial agreement was entered into under the General Manager's authority. Phase I of ESA's work is complete. Phase I included surveys and reporting to identify sites that should be avoided if possible, and to determine where additional cultural resource evaluation and/or monitoring will be needed prior to and during Project implementation. This amendment would add Phase II scope, including evaluation of a county boundary marker and remnant rock wall identified during Phase I surveys for historical significance; monitoring at sensitive sites during ground-disturbing Project activities; support for the District to conduct Tribal consultation as needed; and consultation with appropriate officials and the Most Likely Descendent(s), as well as coordination of repatriation of remains, if Native American human remains or funerary artifacts are discovered. The addition of this scope would increase the total contract amount to \$98,000.

**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**

A Request for Qualifications and Proposals was released on November 27, 2023. Ten firms attended two pre-proposal conferences held in early December. Four proposals were received, summarized below. The fees vary widely in part because consultants made differing assumptions regarding the number of newly discovered resources, they would need to document in Phase I, as well as the number of days of monitoring that would be needed in Phase II. The fee for Phase I was given more consideration than total fee because the scope of Phase II was dependent on findings from Phase I and therefore the consultants had little concrete information with which to develop a Phase II fee estimate. ESA is highly qualified and had reasonable fees for Phase I.

Consultant	Location	Proposed Fee (Phase I)	Proposed Fee (Phase II)	Total Proposed Fee
Environmental Science Associates, Inc.	San Francisco, CA	\$46,500	\$35,500*	\$82,000
Cogstone, Inc.	Orange, CA	\$49,842	\$136,258	\$186,100
Rincon Consultants, Inc.	Oakland, CA	\$74,522.76	\$10,495.80	\$85,001
SWCA Environmental Consultants	Half Moon Bay, CA	\$92,875.41	\$146,435.25	\$239,311

\*The initial contract was for Phase I only, with Phase II to be authorized at the District’s discretion. Based on ESA’s findings for Phase I, their revised fee for Phase II is \$51,500, bringing the contract total to \$98,000.

**PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT**

June 26, 2024: The Board of Directors approved the Project for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget and 3-Year Capital Improvement and Action Plan ([R-24-82](#), [minutes](#))

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The Project's activities, including mechanical and manual vegetation removal, have been evaluated under the District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP) and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which include mitigation measures for potential cultural resource impacts. Prescribed fire and/or cultural burning could also potentially be employed at the site in the future under the Prescribed Fire Plan.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The contract will be amended to increase the contract total to \$98,000 to allow the completion of the Phase II scope as described above.

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