



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-12-60
Meeting 12-20
June 27, 2012

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Authorization to amend an agreement with Ascent Environmental for an additional \$6,700 to provide additional environmental consulting services for the Site-Specific Weed and Pest Management 2012-2014 Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

Authorize an agreement amendment with Ascent Environmental for an additional \$6,700 to provide additional environmental analysis and responses to comments for the Site-Specific Weed and Pest Management 2012-2014 Project (Project), for a total contract amount not to exceed \$40,515.

SUMMARY

The Board of Directors of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) approved an original agreement with Ascent Environmental on February 29, 2012, to conduct an analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with the Site-Specific Weed and Pest Management 2012-2014 Project. Ascent Environmental prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project under a very accelerated schedule to enable the District to continue weed and pest management at a select set of sites over the next three years. After the 30-day public comment period, Ascent Environmental assisted staff in responding to comments, including additional comments received on the day of the public meeting. These activities increased the scope and expenditures beyond the original parameters at the last minute and Ascent Environmental, who agreed to do the work, was advised that subsequent Board authorization would be required to authorize payment for the last minute effort. The Board approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program on May 9, 2012.

DISCUSSION

The original scope of services for Ascent Environmental's work on this project did not include a significant component to assist District staff in reviewing comments and preparing responses to comments. Additionally, the original scope of services did not anticipate the significant review and revision process that the Mitigated Negative Declaration would ultimately require at the last minute. District review of potential work sites proposed by field staff also required a second draft document submittal by Ascent Environmental to accommodate the revised project description.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration was completed on time and to a very high standard that reflected the level of effort. Because of the ambitious schedule, District staff did not have the ability to bring authorization to amend the contract with Ascent Environmental to the Board of Directors at the time that the additional scope items were identified. Staff recommends the Ascent Environmental agreement be amended to cover the unanticipated extra costs required to complete the environmental review on schedule and to respond to the additional public comments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff negotiated the proposed contract amendment with Ascent Environmental not to exceed \$6,700, which when added to their current contract of \$33,815 (see Report R-11-29), would bring their total contract amount to \$40,515. Funds for this amendment are included in the Natural Resources Department budget for FY2012-13.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

Board Committee review for this item was not needed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice was provided pursuant to the Brown Act. No additional notice is necessary.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Retention of environmental consultant services to prepare reports does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board authorization, staff will approve payment of additional funds to Ascent Environmental.

Responsible Department Manager: 
Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager

Prepared by:
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Contact person:
Same as above