



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

DATE	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
TITLE	Authorization to Execute a Professional Services Contract with Rangeland Conservation Science in the Amount of \$65,500 for Long-Term Native Grassland Monitoring at Various Locations
DIVISION	Acquisition, Stewardship, and Development
FROM	Matthew Graul, Chief of Stewardship Ken Wysocki, Assistant General Manager
APPROVED	Sabrina Landreth, General Manager 

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors authorize a professional services contract with Rangeland Conservation Science (RCS) of Berkeley, California in the amount of \$65,500 for native grassland monitoring at the following parks: Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park (Pleasanton Ridge), Garin Regional Park (Garin), Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve (Sibley), Wildcat Canyon Regional Park (Wildcat) and Vasco Caves Regional Preserve (Vasco Caves).

BACKGROUND

This monitoring project aims to evaluate changes in highly native grasslands resulting from changes in management (e.g., new water troughs for livestock, new fire roads or trails, introduction of prescribed burning, and shrub removal for grassland restoration). Grassland monitoring plots are in areas where a change in management is anticipated and in reference areas for comparison. Monitoring will include spring and fall measurements that will be used to guide management.

Request for Qualifications for multiple technical services in July 2021 were issued by the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District); rangeland management was one of the services. A Park District staff selection committee reviewed the proposals based on experience, qualifications, approach, and other factors such as capacity. Based on this evaluation, staff determined Rangeland Conservation Science (RCS) to be the highest qualified due to their familiarity with native grassland species and the rangeland services they provide.

At the time, the Park District chose to move forward with the technical services contracts for only Data Management, Geomorphology and Hydrology, and Wildlife Studies. On November 2, 2021, the Board authorized on-call contracts for those services (Resolution 2021-11-301). However, staff is utilizing this selection process and has engaged with RCS to provide a scope for grassland monitoring. RCS has provided support to the Park District in these monitoring efforts since 2022.

ANALYSIS

Without ongoing monitoring, Park District staff lose an opportunity to research how to minimize and avoid impacts to highly native grasslands from future management changes. It is vital to continue evaluating our grasslands to determine the best management practices and ensure compliance with regulatory agency recommendations. Adaptive management that restores and enhances grassland communities also achieves the Park District's 30 x 30 goal to protect resiliency and biodiversity.

The recommended action is for the Board to authorize the execution of the contract with Rangeland Conservation Science for grassland monitoring at five parks.

FISCAL IMPACT

This agreement will be funded from the Stewardship Restoration Project (Project No 562200) budget.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	
Stewardship Restoration Project (Project No. 562200)	\$ 636,000
Encumbrances and Expenditures to Date	0
Available Balance	\$ 636,000

USE OF FUNDS	
Contract with Rangeland Conservation Science	\$ 65,500
Balance Remaining	\$ 570,500

ATTACHMENTS

- I. Rangeland Conservation Science Grassland Monitoring Map



**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2024 – 04 -
APRIL 2, 2024**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
WITH RANGELAND CONSERVATION SCIENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$65,500
FOR LONG-TERM NATIVE GRASSLAND MONITORING**

WHEREAS, managing and preserving native grasslands within the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is at the core of the Park District’s mission; and

WHEREAS, researching impacts resulting from changes in infrastructure or other practices, such as a new water trough for livestock, a new fire road or trail, prescribed burning, or shrub removal, will inform and build effective management practices to sustainably manage wildland grassland; and

WHEREAS, rangeland biological monitoring services are needed to evaluate these impacts on native grasslands, and Park District staff issued a request for qualifications for rangeland management services in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, one firm submitted a proposal, and the Park District’s selection committee evaluated Rangeland Conservation Science’s (RCS) proposal and determined their team to be highly qualified owing to their experience working on similar projects; and

WHEREAS, RCS has been assisting the park district in these monitoring efforts since 2022 and is uniquely qualified because of the rangeland services they provide and familiarity with native grassland species;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby authorizes the execution of a contract with Rangeland Conservation Science. in the amount of \$65,000 for technical biomonitoring services to be funded out of the Stewardship Restoration Project (Project No. 562200); as presented to the Board on April 2, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Manager is hereby authorized and directed, on behalf of the Park District and in its name, to execute and deliver such documents and to do such acts as may be deemed necessary or appropriate to accomplish the intentions of this resolution.

Moved by Director _____, and seconded by Director _____, and adopted April 2, 2024, by the following vote:

- FOR:
- AGAINST:
- ABSTAIN:
- ABSENT:

