

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

D. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

- f. Authorization to Amend the Contract for Services with Ascent Environmental, Inc. by \$41,860, to \$131,240 for Permitting Support in the Implementation of Fuels Reduction Projects Related to Tree Dieback: Various Locations (Graul/Goorjian)

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) authorize an amendment to the existing contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc. of Sacramento, California, in the amount of \$89,380 by \$41,860 for a total contract amount of \$131,240 to provide environmental permitting support for fuels reduction projects, pursuant to CEQA.

REVENUE/COST

This action will authorize an amendment to the contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc., not to exceed of \$89,380 by \$41,860 for a total contract amount of \$131,240, for professional services related to fuels reduction projects. Funds are available for this action as indicated below.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Fuels Management - General Fund (550000)	\$ 11,043,337
Expenditures and Encumbrances to Date	\$ 9,103,348
AMOUNT AVAILABLE	\$ 1,939,989

USE OF FUNDS

Fuels Management – General Fund (550000)	\$ 1,939,989
Amend Consultant Contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc.	\$ 131,240
BALANCE	\$ 1,808,749

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Park District completed the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan (WHRRMP) and certified the plan's associated Environmental Impact Report in compliance

with the California Environmental Quality Act. This plan identified Recommended Treatment Areas (RTAs) throughout the Park District for fuels management to reduce the likelihood and intensity of wildfire. In 2018, the Park District acquired an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that authorized the implementation of the WHRRMP. This permit coverage extends to all named Recommended Treatment Areas (RTAs) named in the Biological Opinion. In combination, the above plans and permits have allowed the Park District to perform fuels management within the identified RTAs.

In 2020, the Park District Fire Department observed thousands of acres of tree dieback and mortality primarily occurring in dense eucalyptus plantations and Monterey pine plantations. This widespread dieback event increases fire hazard risk to Park District lands and adjacent communities. Much of the area planned for work is in areas excluded from WHRRMP environmental permit coverage, which necessitates the Park District use a different strategy for environmental permitting of fuels management work.

However, most of the areas of tree dieback and mortality occur within CalFIRE designated State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), making them eligible for environmental permit coverage under the State Board of Forestry's California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The CalVTP PEIR was certified in 2019 with the intention of streamlining environmental permitting for vegetation treatment projects. Local agencies, including the Park District, are eligible to obtain CEQA coverage by completing a Program Specific Analysis (PSA) under the CalVTP PEIR. The PSA would evaluate the Park District's project to ensure the project is eligible for coverage under the CalVTP PEIR and evaluate which of the identified mitigation measures would need to be implemented.

The Park District is in the process of obtaining environmental permit coverage for fuels reduction work to address the unprecedented tree dieback occurring in East Bay parks, including Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park, and Tilden Regional Park. On February 2022, the Park District released a Request for Proposals to provide professional services to obtain permit coverage under the CalVTP PEIR. Ascent Environmental, Inc. demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the CalVTP PEIR and was deemed most qualified in demonstrating completion of past successfully permitted projects. A contract was awarded to Ascent Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$89,380. Due to the complexity and size of the project, an amendment is needed to complete the preparation of the PSA and obtain permit coverage. Specific tasks the consultant will complete include environmental assessment, mapping, preparation of regulatory documentation and a CalVTP PSA for approval under the PEIR.

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives are recommended.

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.: 2022 – 11 –

November 15, 2022

AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH
ASCENT ENVIRONMENTAL, INC. BY \$41,860, TO \$131,240,
FOR PERMITTING SUPPORT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
FUELS REDUCTION PROJECTS RELATED TO TREE DIEBACK:
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, the East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) is experiencing unprecedented drought-related tree dieback and mortality on its lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park District has received funds from the State of California to support fuels reduction projects to address the tree dieback event; and

WHEREAS, environmental permit coverage is required by California law to implement such fuels reduction projects; and

WHEREAS, the Park District awarded a contract in March 2022 to Ascent Environmental, Inc. to provide professional services to obtain permit coverage under the CalVTP EIR; and

WHEREAS, due to the complexity and size of the proposed project, a contract amendment is needed to complete the permitting documentation; and

WHEREAS there are sufficient funds in the Fuels Management - General Fund (550000) to cover the additional \$41,860;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District hereby authorizes an amendment to the contract for professional services with Ascent Environmental, Inc., of \$89,380, by \$41,860, for a total contract amount of \$131,240, to be paid out of funds from the Fuels Management - General Fund and other sources as confirmed and available (550000); 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 _____, seconded by Director _____, and
adopted this 15th day of November 2022, by the following vote:

FOR:

AGAINST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: