



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Fire
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: August 30, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief / Fire Warden, 805-681-5500
Director(s)
Contact Info: Rob Heckman, Deputy Fire Chief, 805-681-5501

SUBJECT: Conversion of Purchase Contract CN2076 to a Board Contract with Cuyama Lamb, LLC for the implementation of three herbivory treatments associated with the Tepusquet Vegetation Management Program (VMP) grant project.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services with Cuyama Lamb, LLC to continue providing herbivory treatment services on the Tepusquet VMP grant project at a total cost not to exceed \$247,000 inclusive of \$120,096 under Purchase Contract CN2076; and
- b) Determine the project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15304 and 15308. A copy of the CEQA document (Attachment C) has been provided to the State and was approved prior to the expenditure of any grant funds.

Summary Text:

The Fire Department requests the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve and ratify an Agreement with Cuyama Lamb, LLC for the implementation of three (3) herbivory treatments within the scope of the overall Tepusquet VMP grant project. Cuyama Lamb is currently treating Phase One, 194 acres with 900 sheep on the Aquistipace Ranch under an existing purchase order (CN2076) in the amount of \$120,096.00.

Due to unforeseen delays, Phase One was not completed prior to the end of the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Phase Two, covering 175 acres at a cost of \$108,333.00, and Phase Three, covering 30 acres at a cost of \$18,571.00, in the Blazing Saddles area are planned for implementation immediately following Phase One which is currently scheduled for completion by the end of August 2022. Phases One, Two and Three will result in 399 treated acres at a total cost of \$247,000.00. Because this amount exceeds the single year Purchasing threshold of \$200,000.00, we are requesting Board approval to enter into the attached agreement, inclusive of the \$120,096 under purchase order CN2076, but which otherwise cancels, nullifies, and supersedes CN2076. Approval of the recommended action will allow the Fire Department to continue the herbivory services and meet the terms of the Tepusquet VMP grant project.

The recommended action will allow the Santa Barbara County Fire Prevention Division to implement essential fuel reduction activities and reduce the impact of wildland fires in the Tepusquet Canyon community. Fuel treatments utilizing sheep is highly specialized and labor intensive in the management of the 900+ sheep. Utilizing sheep versus other types of livestock benefits the project with the inherent light impacts to the land, the consumption of targeted types of vegetation and eliminating the spread of non-native seeds that the use of other types of livestock might introduce to treated areas.

Background:

On December 14, 2021, the Board approved the Santa Barbara County Fire Department's acceptance of \$6,440,879.00 in State grant funding to execute the "Tepusquet VMP" (Vegetation Management Program) project. The funding is a result of a successful application submitted through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) California Climate Investment (CCI) Fire Prevention Program Grant Program.

The "Tepusquet VMP", a multi-faceted fuel reduction project in the Tepusquet Canyon and the nearby areas of Sisquoc and Cuyama valleys, is a multi-year project that benefits at least 42,130 acres in an area of Santa Barbara County with a history of large wildland fires. The overall treatments include 32.5 miles of roadside fuel reduction; 2,064 acres of prescribed fire; 399 acres of herbivory; 138 acres of strategic fuel break treatments; the implementation of a community chipping program and the creation community defensible space zones (CDSP) where possible when the occasional group of homes presents themselves within the project boundary.

Phase One of the herbivory services was originally anticipated to be completed in FY 2021-22 with Phases Two and Three to be completed in subsequent fiscal years. Due to delays in the implementation of the service and the speed with which the services are now progressing, it is currently anticipated that all three phases of the herbivory services will be completed in FY 2022-23 at a total cost of \$247,000.

Since the County's Purchasing Manager does not have the authority to execute a service contract in excess of \$200,000, the Fire Department is requesting that the Board approve the attached Agreement with Cuyama Lamb, LLC to continue to provide herbivory services. This Agreement converts a Purchase Contract (CN2076) to a Board Contract, adds additional scope of work, extends the term to August 31, 2023 and increases funding to a revised total of \$247,000, inclusive of \$120,096 under Purchase Contract CN2076, but which otherwise cancels, nullifies, and supersedes Purchase Contract CN2076.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) California Climate Investment (CCI) Fire Prevention Program Grant will fund 100% of these grant eligible herbivory treatment costs.

Due to the unknown phasing of the work associated with this multi-year grant, \$100,000.00 was included in the FY 2022-23 adopted budget for these herbivory services. If necessary, the Fire Department will process a budget revision at a future date.

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$ 247,000.00		\$ 247,000.00
Federal			
Fire Protection District Fund Balance			
Total	\$ 247,000.00	\$ -	\$ 247,000.00

Staffing Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Upon Board approval and execution, the Clerk is asked to please return a copy of the minute order to the Fire Department, attention: Frederick Tan.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Agreement for Services with Cuyama Lamb, LLC
- Attachment B: Purchasing Contract (CN2076)
- Attachment C: Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Rob Hazard, Division Chief

CC:

- Shawna Jorgensen, Chief Financial Officer
- Rob Hazard, Division Chief
- Fred Tan, Battalion Chief