



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: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: December 12, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director:
Contact Info: Sherman Hansen, Community Services Business Manager (805) 568-3408
SUBJECT: Service Contract with Fluid Resource Management for Operations of Cachuma Lake Domestic Water and Wastewater Plants

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to ratify a service contract with Fluid Resource Management (Contractor) in the amount not to exceed \$650,000. This contract will provide operations and maintenance of the Cachuma Lake Recreational Area domestic water plant and wastewater plant for a period of twelve (12) months beginning December 1, 2023 and ending November 30, 2024; (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve and authorize the Director of Community Services Department, or his designee, to exercise an annual renewal option of the Contract and execute amendments to the Contract to continue the term of the Contract on a year-by-year basis, for up to an additional four (4) years, subject to annual appropriations and upon approval and adoption of the County Operating Budget and the Final Budget for the Contract by the County Board of Supervisors; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15301 as the action involves the maintenance of existing public facilities that will result in no or negligible expansion of existing use.

Summary Text:

The Community Services Department, Parks Division (Parks) operates and manages Cachuma Lake Recreation Area (Lake), which is the only fresh water lake in the County the public is allowed to access for boating and fishing recreation. The Lake has its own domestic water treatment plant as well as a waste water treatment plant. Parks has historically operated these two facilities with a Chief Plant

Operator and a Plant Operator. Both of these positions are currently vacant due to retirements in the Spring of 2023 and after running two separate recruitments, Parks was unable to find qualified applicants. This contract will allow the Contractor to continue to operate and maintain these plants, as the Contractor has been providing these services for Park since May of 2023. If the plants are not operated and maintained properly they will be subject to closure by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, which would negatively impact the park as there would be no domestic water supply and no ability to treat waste water.

Background:

The Lake hosts over 800,000 visitors annually and has its own domestic water treatment plant as well as a waste water treatment plant. With the retirement of both the water and wastewater plant operators last Spring, Parks entered into a service contract with the Contractor to temporarily cover the daily operations and regular maintenance of both the domestic water treatment plant as well as the wastewater treatment plant, while Parks ran a recruitment to fill the Chief Plant Operator position. After conducting two different recruitments for Chief Plant Operator, Parks was unsuccessful in finding any qualified applicants. This is most likely due to the fact that the position requires the applicant to hold dual certificates for domestic water treatment as well as wastewater treatment.

As the original service contract was only supposed to be in place for approximately 6 months, while Parks recruited to replace the Chief Plant Operator position, it will soon reach the \$200,000 annual maximum allowed. Parks now wishes to enter into a Board approved contract with the Contractor to provide for the daily operations as well as regular equipment maintenance, as defined by manufacturer specifications, of both the domestic water plant and wastewater plants. The contract will be in place for 12 months, with four 1-year extensions subject to annual budget appropriations. The Contractor has estimated the daily operational costs to be \$35,000 per month, or \$420,000 annually. As the domestic water treatment and wastewater treatments plants are both older facilities they are currently labor intensive to operate. The County and Contractor are working on completing a backlog of deferred maintenance projects and efficiency upgrades. As these projects are completed it is anticipated the daily operational costs should drop by as much as 50% in the extension years.

The contract includes \$230,000 to complete deferred maintenance and facility upgrades. The Contractor and Parks will meet annually and review the daily operational costs and adjust annual costs based on the efficiency upgrades and deferred maintenance completed the previous year. Contractor and Parks will also identify and address any deferred maintenance or efficiency upgrades needed to be completed in the coming year.

Risk:

The agreement applies County standard independent contractor terms and conditions in accordance with State of California laws and regulations. The risk mitigation includes insurance coverage appropriate for the level of risk involved as determined by Community Services in conjunction with the County Risk Manager, and the agreement indemnifies County agents, officers and employees from all claims that arise from activities performed under the agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized On-going Cost:	Total One-Time Project Cost
General Fund	\$ 650,000.00	\$ 650,000.00	
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 650,000.00	\$ 650,000.00	\$ -

Fiscal Analysis:

Budgeted: Yes. All costs for work conducted by the Contractor are budgeted within the Community Services Department, Parks Division, operating budget.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Agreement for Services with Fluid Resource Management.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute as follows to Sherman Hansen, Community Services Department:

1. Minute Order
2. Agreement for Services with Fluid Resource Management. (two originals)