



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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

Agenda Number:

**Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)**

Department Name: Planning &
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: November 7, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Planning and Development
Director(s) Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Director, 568-2085

Contact Info: Dianne Black, Assistant Director, 568-2086

SUBJECT: Restoration Service Agreements with Channel Islands Restoration, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and La Cumbre Mutual Water District – Second, Third and Fourth Districts

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Channel Islands Restoration, for the period of November 7, 2017 to October 31, 2021, in the amount of \$21,450 towards restoring native grassland at San Marcos Preserve, Second Supervisorial District (Attachment A).
- b. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, for the period of November 7, 2017 to December 31, 2021, in the amount of \$112,920 towards restoring Burton Mesa chaparral at the Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve, Third and Fourth Supervisorial Districts (Attachment B).
- c. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with La Cumbre Mutual Water District, for the period of November 7, 2017 to June

30, 2022, in the amount of \$67,063 towards restoring a wetland at the Modoc Preserve, located in the Hidden Valley area of Santa Barbara, Second Supervisorial District (Attachment C).

- d. Determine that budgeting funds to restore biological habitats and implementation of restoration plans are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), pursuant to Sections 15378(b)(4), 15301 (i) and 15333 of the CEQA guidelines (Attachment D).

Summary Text:

The three attached Agreements for Services would help fund preservation of three distinct biological habitats. Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) proposes to prepare a restoration plan, focusing on approximately 85 acres of *Stipa pluchra* and other native grasses on the 200-acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve. This preserve is located east of Highway 154 and north of Foothill/Cathedral Oaks roads. In addition to preparation of a restoration plan, the attached Agreement (Attachment A) requires CIR to commence implementation of the plan by restoring three to five acres of native grasslands (e.g., eradicating invasive plants and planting native grasses). The remainder of the restoration work outlined in the plan would be completed outside the purview of this Agreement and at a later date when CIR secures additional funds. It is likely that CIR secures additional funds from non-County sources as it moves forward with implementing the remainder of the restoration work.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) proposes to survey and map invasive plant communities and prepare a restoration plan for the 5,368-acre Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve north of Lompoc. Preparation of the plan includes three days of surveying plants utilizing a low-flying helicopter and global positioning systems and software, prioritizing invasive plant species within the Preserve and identifying the methods by which to eradicate them. In addition to preparation of a restoration plan, the attached Agreement (Attachment B) requires SBBG to commence implementation of the restoration plan by eradicating low abundance invasive plants and up to five acres of the Veldt grass, an established invasive species, from five patches of the Federally Endangered Vandenberg monkeyflower on site. The remainder of the restoration work outlined in the plan would be completed outside the purview of this Agreement and at a later date when SBBG secures additional funds. It is likely that SBBG secures additional funds from non-County sources as it moves forward with implementing the remainder of the restoration work.

La Cumbre Mutal Water District (LCMWD) proposes to prepare and implement a restoration plan to enhance 3.4 acres of wetland habitat at the 22-acre Modoc Preserve located in the Hidden Valley area of Santa Barbara. The restoration plan would focus on methods to eradicate invasive plants, such as non-native trees, harding grass and annual weeds, and list various native species to seed and/or plant. In addition to preparation of a restoration plan, the attached Agreement (Attachment C) requires full implementation and monitoring of the restoration plan.

Background:

Requirements and permit conditions of approval for six development projects required applicants to contribute money to mitigate the impacts to the Monarch butterfly (Santa Barbara Club Resort and Spa/Hyatt 86-DP-046 and Nesbitt Structure 95-RMM-003), Burton Mesa Chaparral (Providence Landing Housing 98-DP-039 and Onstott Estates TM 13,911), native grassland (*Stipa pulchra*) (Stipulated Final Judgment, 12/4/87, Court Case No. 167373), and wetland habitats (Los Carneros TM 13,646). These funds have been held by the Planning & Development Department (P&D) and are to be awarded to projects that would restore or enhance these four habitats in the County.

In December 2016, P&D solicited for interested parties and received five proposals to restore these four habitats. The Director of P&D recommended funding four of the five proposals. Contracts for three of the four proposals are included in this board letter, and one contract for a proposal to acquire land with Monarch butterfly habitat on site will be brought to your Board separately for approval. The one unsuccessful proposal consisted of developing a restoration plan but included no plan implementation. The four recommended proposals include plan implementation, and directly compensate for loss of habitat.

Fiscal Analysis:

The restoration projects are fully supported by funds deposited into P&D Mitigation fund 1392 in accordance with permit conditions on seven development projects. There is no General Fund impact and there are no ongoing costs associated with the proposed grant contracts. Staff time to solicit and review proposals, prepare Agreements, and monitor compliance of the Agreements is budgeted on page D-286 of the FY 2017-18 budget in the Permitting Budget Program, and is fully supported by interest from Mitigation fund 1392.

The County is the property owner for San Marcos Foothills Preserve. The Community Services Department, Parks Division administers and manages the property. The funding and scope of work described in Attachment A would benefit this County property by helping the Parks Division restore the land. Parks Division reviewed and approved the Statement of Work in the contract (Exhibit A of Attachment A).

Key Contract Risks:

A risk analysis was prepared for each of the three contracts. The contracts with CIR and with LCMWD were determined to be low risk: the contract amounts are less than \$100,000; the complexities of the contract requirements are low; and the contracts are not controversial. The contract with SBBG is determined to be medium risk, mainly due to the contract amount exceeding \$100,000; the complexities of the contract requirements are low, and the contract is not controversial.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the contracts (including exhibits in the contracts) to Kathy Pfeifer of the P&D, Energy & Minerals Division.

Attachments:

- A: Agreement for Services with the Channel Islands Restoration
- B: Agreement for Services with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
- C: Agreement for Services with the La Cumbre Mutal Water District
- D: Notice of Exemption

Attachment A

Agreement for Services with the Channel Islands Restoration

Attachment B

Agreement for Services with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Attachment C

Agreement for Services with the La Cumbre Mutal Water District

Attachment D

Notice of Exemption