



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: October 19, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
Director(s): (805) 568-2086 

Contact Info: John Zorovich, Deputy Director, Energy, Minerals & Compliance
Division (805) 568-2519

**SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 to Restoration Service Agreement with Channel Islands
Restoration – Second District**

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 and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Channel Islands Restoration, to authorize use of contingency funds and to extend the completion date from October 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023, Second Supervisorial District (Attachment A).
- b. 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.

Summary Text:

Per its Agreement for Services with the County of Santa Barbara (Attachment B), Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) prepared a restoration plan for purple needlegrass (*Stipa pluchra*) and other native grasses on the 200-acre San Marcos Foothills Preserve, located east of Highway 154 and north of

Foothill/Cathedral Oaks roads. In addition, CIR has been restoring three to five acres of native grasslands (e.g., eradicating invasive plants and planting native grasses) pursuant to the Agreement.

Over the past four years, CIR has managed sheep grazing of the grasslands, weeded selected invasive plants, planted and seeded *Stipa pluchra* and irrigated select areas to ensure the native grassland success. The grazing program has been successful in reducing competition and cover of invasive plant species. Three of the four monitoring locations have met or exceeded the Restoration Plan's performance criteria of 10% cover of purple needlegrass. In some locations within the County Restoration Area, density of purple needlegrass reaches 30-40% or more.

In order to meet the Agreement's requirement to restore three to five acres of native grassland, CIR is requesting to use the full amount of contingency funds (\$1,950) towards purchasing 550 native grassland plants from Santa Barbara Natives (\$1,748) and labor costs associated with installation of the additional plants (\$202). In addition, CIR requests a time extension of the Agreement from October 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. This would allow for two additional years of maintenance of the site. Amendment No. 1 (Attachment A) would execute CIR's request.

CIR has secured additional funding to pay for: 1) irrigation of the new plants, 2) a wildlife guzzler to provide drinking water for wildlife; and 3) a small wildlife observation camera that will be attached to a stationary object near the guzzler to monitor wildlife that use the guzzler during the day and at night. These costs would be paid for separately by CIR and are not included in Amendment No. 1.

Background:

At the November 7, 2017 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Board of Supervisors executed the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Channel Islands Restoration in the amount of \$21,450 towards restoring native grassland at San Marcos Preserve, with a completion date of October 31, 2021 (Attachment B).

Fiscal Analysis:

The Amendment No. 1 does not include an increase in funds beyond the original amount in the Agreement for Service with Channel Islands Restoration. The Agreement is 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 prepare the Amendment No. 1 and monitor compliance of the Agreement is budgeted on page D-302 of the FY 2021-22 adopted 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 Amendment No. 1 (Attachment A).

Key Contract Risks:

Risk analysis of the Amendment No. 1 in Attachment A determined that this contract would be a low risk: there is no increase in the contract amount; the complexity of the contract requirements are low; and the contract is not controversial.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the Amendment No. 1 (including any Exhibits) to Kathy McNeal Pfeifer of the Planning and Development Department, Energy, Minerals & Compliance Division, who will mail a copy of the Amendment No. 1 to the grantee.

Attachments:

- A: Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Channel Islands Restoration
- B: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Channel Islands Restoration

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Attachment A

Amendment No. 1 to Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor
with Channel Islands Restoration

Attachment B

Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor
with Channel Islands Restoration