
R-20-64
Meeting 20-14
July 23, 2020

CONSENT ITEM #C2

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

SUBJECT

Approve Contract for Statewide Coordination on Wildlife Corridors

REVENUE/COST

The contract is a three-year agreement for services related to statewide coordination on wildlife corridors. The proposed annual rate for the contract is \$10,000, to be billed on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

Staff is seeking consulting services to support coordination at the statewide level on policy, agency relationships, and funding related to wildlife movement corridors. The scope of these services would include:

- Facilitating meetings or conversations between relevant state agencies to ensure collaboration and communication between scientists, engineers, and others involved in the design and construction of new and existing wildlife corridors, especially as major infrastructure projects around the State are planned, whether that is for new infrastructure or repair and retrofits to existing infrastructure.
- Identifying and promoting best practices for wildlife corridor design and construction.
- Identifying new and existing local and state opportunities for supportive policy funding for wildlife corridors and habitat linkages. This includes active participation in supporting and developing such new policies and funding sources, specifically including opportunities for funding in state bond measures.
- Developing communications materials to educate the public on the importance of wildlife corridors.

Close coordination with any other agencies, organizations, and firms that are either directly involved in similar activities or are representing clients who are involved in similar activities.

DISCUSSION

In May, Staff prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified consultant for services related to statewide coordination on wildlife corridors. Staff posted the RFP on the Authority's official website and at the administrative office on May 29, 2020. Staff also distributed notice of the RFP to all relevant conservation-related consulting firms of which the Authority was aware. The Authority received two proposals by the June 26, 2020 deadline.

Staff reviewed both proposals to evaluate each vendor's fee proposal, approaches to achieving the RFP goals, examples of work, and client references. Staff evaluated the proposal according to the RFP's

criteria, which included experience of the bidder as a firm, including past performance of the firm on contracts of similar size and scope; experience and qualifications of personnel employed by the bidder; demonstrated understanding of the scope of the service, including schedule and plan to accomplish the service; best overall financial return to the governing board on the contract; a responsible bidder who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, and experience to satisfactorily perform the work or provide the goods required.

The below chart summarizes the main elements of both proposals.

Consulting Firm	Brief description of main objective(s)	Other funding partners identified?	Total bid to the Open Space Authority
Conservation Biology Institute	To "...advance a renewed statewide connectivity initiative...to enhance funding and policy support at the state level for implementing regional and local connectivity plans..."	No	\$325,998 over 2 years
Environmental and Energy Consulting	To "manage and facilitate regular, efficient Wildlife Corridor Working Group meetings and provide coordination, networking, and information sharing opportunities..."	Yes	\$30,000 over 3 years

Based upon the above-stated criteria, an overall objective that aligns very closely with the objectives and scope of work stated in the RFP, and the cost to the Open Space Authority, staff recommends that Environmental and Energy Consulting be chosen as the most responsible and qualified bidder that best fits the needs of the service contract to provide services related to statewide coordination on wildlife corridors.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Environmental and Energy Consulting for a three-year agreement at an annual rate of \$10,000.

Prepared by:
Marc Landgraf

Attachment(s): Resolution 20-43 – A Resolution of the Governing Board of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Authorizing the General Manager to Enter Into Contract with Environmental and Energy Consulting