



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065
Phone (323) 221-8900

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source professional services contract with Eric York for mountain lion tracking services for the National Park Service.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a sole source contract with Eric C. York for mountain lion study services pursuant to the MRCA-National Park Service Task Agreement Number J8544050057.

Background: Technical services are required as part of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority- National Park Service (MRCA-NPS) project to evaluate the distribution and status of mountain lions in this area, and to utilize the information gathered to help identify wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages. Lions are radio-collared and tracked using VHF telemetry equipment and GPS technology, and movement data are linked to GIS analyses of landscape fragmentation, roads, and habitat types in the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills. Specific efforts are focused on young animals that are in the midst of dispersal to help identify linkages and movement corridors. Results of the project will be applied toward park planning, land protection, and management to protect mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding natural areas.

Mr. Eric C. York is the individual who has been working with the National Park Service for some time to conduct the tracking, trapping, collaring, and GPS studies, and is recommended to continue work under a sole source MRCA professional services contract. Listed below are the requirements for the contract scope of work.

Professional Services Requirements: Wildlife biology and mountain lion capture services will support the cooperative MRCA-NPS carnivore study. MRCA will enter into a professional services contract to provide the following:

Mountain lion capture and handling services using techniques consistent with the NPS animal capture and handling protocol for mountain lions. Professional services may include mountain lion capture using foot-hold snares, cage traps, and specially-trained hounds to track and tree mountain lions. Capture services will be conducted with oversight and supervision by NPS biologists. Mountain lion capture and handling techniques will follow California Department of Fish and Game regulations and be consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding in place for this project between NPS and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Professional services to track mountain lion movements in support of identifying potential capture locations. Tracking will include use of VHF radio telemetry techniques and analysis of GPS data downloads provided by NPS.

Setting and monitoring of mountain lion traps, including foot-hold snares and cage traps.

Programming and affixing GPS radio collars to captured mountain lions and taking mountain lion field measurements from captured animals according to NPS data collection protocols. Animal handling equipment and supplies, including radio collars, will be provided to the professional services contractor by NPS.

The professional services contractor must have:

Extensive carnivore capture and handling experience, including for mountain lions;

Familiarity with the use and programming of Televilt GPS radio collar devices, including affixing collars to mountain lions;

An established record of identifying mountain lion capture locations, properly setting mountain lion traps, and successfully capturing mountain lions in complex urban interface environments; and

Familiarity and experience with California Department of Fish and Game regulatory and permitting requirements for handling carnivores.

Service Needs and Budget:

Animal capture and handling services will be billed by the contractor to MRCA following concurrence and cooperative review by NPS and MRCA of invoices submitted by the contractor.

Professional services will be billed at the rate of \$23.45 per hour, with a maximum of 400 billable hours available for this contract. The contract expenditures are

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expected to be approximately \$9,380.00, not to exceed \$10,000, over the term of the contract. The MRCA-NPS Task Agreement for mountain lion studies, Number J8544050057, has sufficient funds for the contract.

If the Governing Board approves, the contract will begin on April 5, 2006 and shall continue in full force and effect through December 31, 2006.