



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 4, 2016

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for engineering services for the Puerco Canyon project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a contract with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for engineering services for the Puerco Canyon project in an amount not to exceed \$153,208.

Background: The Puerco Canyon property, also known as the Cameron Nature Preserve, was acquired in 2014, and at that time was among the largest privately owned open space parcels in the Santa Monica Mountains. Portions of the 703-acre property were cleared and graded for residential development long prior to the adoption of the California Coastal Act, and a few of these scattered ranching and homestead structures still exist. Access to the property is via Puerco Canyon Road 2,000 feet from Pacific Coast Highway, and narrow dirt roads provide rudimentary access through the site. The Puerco Canyon project will convert the previously graded sites into a trailhead with day-use parking, overnight camping sites for groups and individuals, and an extended stay camp facility designed to accommodate foster youth from the Los Angeles County Foster Care system. A preliminary concept design has identified the ideal arrangement for all of the desired elements. To proceed with the project, a robust analysis of the project's infrastructure needs and implementation options is required.

Staff prepared a scope of work for an infrastructure feasibility study including road improvements, water (potable and non-potable), electrical (grid and solar), wastewater (sewage and stormwater), solid waste (trash, recycling, green waste, and fat/oil/grease from kitchen operations), and re-use options for the existing structures and remnants. The feasibility analysis will include general pros and cons, rough order of magnitude costs, potential impacts on the site's biological resources, and life cycle cost implications. A second phase of work includes an implementation plan with options for phased implementation that consider cost, permit/regulatory

requirements, logistics, and achieving a “carbon-neutral” development. Staff contacted three engineering firms and conducted interviews with two after fee proposals were received.

Section 3.3 of the MRCA’s Purchasing and Contracting Procedures state that for professional services contracts:

The Purchasing Agent shall determine demonstrated competence and qualifications of the services at fair and reasonable prices by reviewing the following documents to be submitted by the professional: 1) a list of the names and contact information for clients for which services were performed in the last five years; 2) samples of the services performed including the scope and cost; 3) a disclosure of any actions taken against the professional; and, 4) a statement of change order(s) to plans or specifications or projects for which services were provided and the reason for the change order(s).

Based on a review of this information, staff recommends using Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for the subject engineering services for the Puerco Canyon project. Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. submitted a proposal in the amount of \$139,280. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a contract to Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. for engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$153,208. The feasibility study will be funded through an existing Proposition 40 grant. The implementation plan will be funded through funds from the California Coastal Commission, after those funds become available.