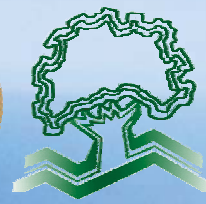


Proposal

To Provide
**Environmental
Documentation Services**
for the
**Puerco Canyon Camp
and Trailhead Project**

Prepared for:

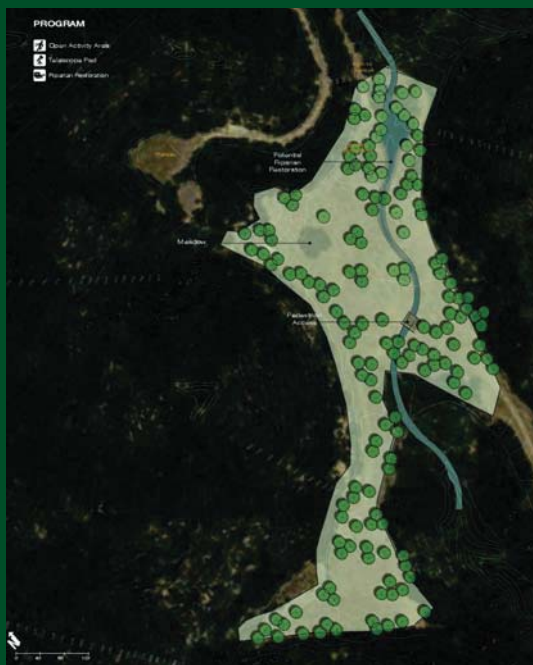
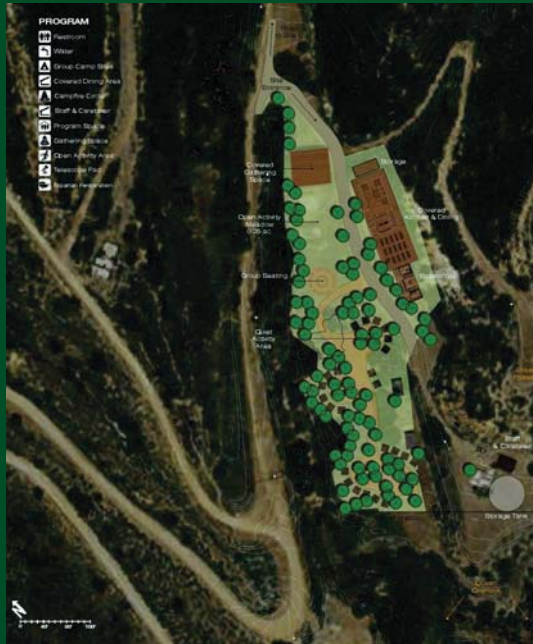
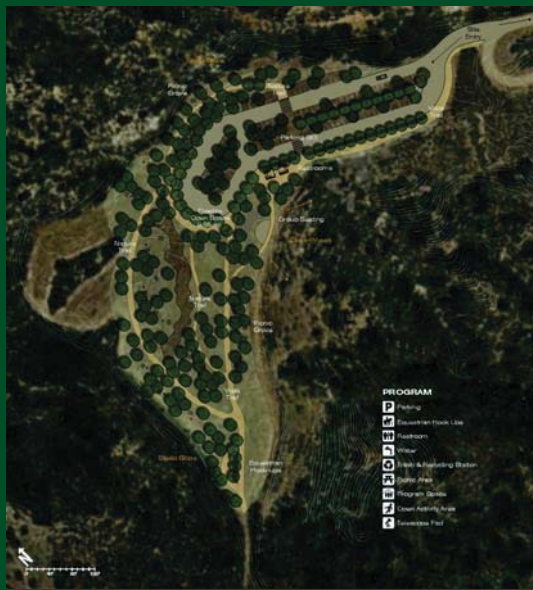


**Mountains Recreation &
Conservation Authority**

March 23, 2018

Submitted by:

Aspen
Environmental Group



1. Cover Letter



MRCA
Attachment
May 2, 2018
Agenda Item VI(b)

March 23, 2018

5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90065

Attention: Mario Sandoval
Mario.sandoval@mrca.ca.gov

Request for Proposals to Provide Environmental Documentation Services for the Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead Project

Introduction

Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) is pleased to respond to the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority's (MRCA) Request for Proposals (RFP) dated March 2, 2018, to provide environmental documentation services for the Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead Project (proposed project). Aspen acknowledges receipt of the *Request for Proposals to Provide Environmental Documentation Services for the Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead Project* and the *RFP Clarifications for Environmental Documentation Services for the Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead Project* (with attachments), dated March 16, 2018. This proposal summarizes Aspen's qualifications and experience in preparing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and supporting studies, our proposed team qualifications and availability, understanding of the proposed project, and proposed scope of work and approach to the proposed project.

Aspen is incorporated as a "C" corporation in California. The company was incorporated in 1991 and has been doing business under the name "Aspen Environmental Group" continuously since that time. **Aspen is also a small business certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration and the State of California Department of General Services.** We are an expert interdisciplinary environmental services firm, specializing in the management of environmental assessment efforts for infrastructure and public works projects under CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Over the past 27 years, Aspen has conducted environmental analysis and permitting for numerous projects that are often characterized by highly visible and controversial issues, extensive public participation programs, and requiring coordination with numerous local, state, and federal agencies. We believe that we have served our clients well on these projects, and we intend to build and improve upon that record of service.

Aspen has a total staff of 62 employees (including 7 seasonal staff). These employees consist of project managers, biologists, engineers, planners, environmental scientists, economists, mitigation monitors, GIS/graphics/mapping specialists, information technology specialists, and administrative staff.

Aspen's clients include some of the largest public agencies in California responsible for constructing, maintaining, or permitting public works and infrastructure projects. Aspen often provides these services under on-call contracts with agencies such as the Ventura County Public Works Agency, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Los Angeles District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Metropolitan Water District (MWD), California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Western Area Power Administration, USDA Forest Service, and Port of Long Beach (POLB). Aspen also has an as-needed



contract with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to assist with Streambed Alteration Agreements for utility stream crossings.

Aspen is exceptionally well qualified to provide environmental review and documentation services for the proposed project, including technical studies and community outreach. The bullets below highlight Aspen's qualifications and experience.

- **Public Agency Contractor.** Aspen is predominantly a public agency contractor. Because of our long-standing relationships and repeat on-call contract awards with federal, State of California, and local public agencies, Aspen has avoided conflicts of interest that often arise through working for private developers.
- **Public Works Projects.** Aspen's focus is on providing environmental services for infrastructure and public works projects. Over 98 percent of our projects have been for infrastructure and public works projects, including trails, road reconstruction, flood control, and water conservation facilities and infrastructure.
- **Trail and Parkland Experience.** Aspen's recent experience includes the Coachella Valley Trails Development Project, the California River Parkways Trailhead Project, and the Redwood Creek Watershed Trails Project. Aspen completed services similar to the requested services for the proposed project, including CEQA documentation and supporting technical studies.
- **Familiarity with the Project Location.** This project would be managed out of Aspen's Agoura Hills corporate headquarters, located less than 13 miles from the project site. Aspen team members live and work in the local community and are familiar with the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. In addition, most of the proposed team are also working on a biological assessment and Program EIR for the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning's update to the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan and Community Standards District.
- **Expert Biological Resources Staff.** Aspen's biological resources team brings a wide range of experience with field surveys environmental analysis. Our team is experienced with field surveys for the rare plants and animals throughout Los Angeles County, and holds the needed agency authorizations for listed species. Our sub-contractor, Dan Cooper, co-authored the "Conservation Analysis" for L.A. County Department of Regional Planning's Local Coastal Plan update for the central Santa Monica Mountains coastal zone, which regulates development and other land use in the hills around Topanga and Malibu (2012-2014). He has extensive experience conducting biological surveys in the Santa Monica Mountains coastal zone and the City of Malibu, and of assessing compliance with the applicable Local Coastal Programs.
- **Established Relationships with Regulatory Agencies.** Through our environmental and permitting on-call contracts with the USACE, the LADWP, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Bernardino County Public Works, and Ventura County Public Works Agency, we have gained experience with the requirements, process, and potentially affected resources for public infrastructure projects.
- **Established Relationships with Resource Agencies.** Aspen has established and ongoing working relationships with and garnered the trust of the Resources Agencies (USFWS, CDFW, State Water Resources Control Board, and others); key land managers in southern California such as the USDA, Forest Service (Angeles National Forest, Los Padres National Forest, and San Bernardino National Forest), and the Bureau of Land Management; and local water agencies (Palmdale Water District, Ventura County Water Protection District, LADWP).

Project Approach

Project Understanding

The proposed Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead project site is located in the Santa Monica Mountains just north of the City of Malibu, on unincorporated Los Angeles County lands within the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP) planning area. The property was once operated as a pig farm during the 1950s and 1960s. Recreational facilities are proposed on three separate areas that were previously disturbed and graded with fill material, likely sourced during extensions of nearby Pacific Coast Highway. The property is currently owned and managed by the MRCA and is open to the public as park lands.

Aspen understands that the following elements are included in the proposed project:

- **Site A (4.9 acres):** 80-spot parking lot, public restrooms, group seating area, landscaped areas and open space, walking trails, and trailhead amenities (drinking water, signs, and picnic tables).
- **Site B (5.2 acres):** 25 tent pad sites, covered dining and kitchen/cooking areas, covered group seating area, restrooms, walking paths, and amenities including drinking water and walking paths.
 - Optional elements: Shower facilities and enclosed cooking facility.
- **Site C:** Passive recreation area (no covered structures), potential riparian habitat restoration.
- **Other Areas:** Caretaker residence(s), water storage tanks, parking areas for maintenance trucks and firefighting vehicles, enclosures for trash and storage, fenced storage area, and vehicular gates.
- **Infrastructure:** Onsite wastewater tanks or treatment, reestablished electrical grid service, small solar system, and water storage tanks.

In order to improve the property for park and recreational use, environmental review under CEQA is required. The MRCA believes that a focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the appropriate form of CEQA documentation for the proposed project. MRCA believes the environmental issues requiring detailed discussion for proper environmental impact disclosure are air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and transportation and traffic. Based on the information provided in the RFP, Aspen agrees that a focused EIR is the appropriate CEQA compliance document for the proposed project. We suggest that the process can be streamlined by incorporating analysis of Effects Found Not to be Significant in the focused EIR rather than preparing a separate Initial Study checklist. We have found this approach to be the most expeditious and lowest-cost method to satisfy CEQA requirements (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15128).

Aspen understands that the proposed project must address potential conflicts with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations such as the Santa Monica Mountains LCP, City of Malibu LCP (for a portion of the proposed road improvements), Coastal Act consistency, general plans, specific plans, and zoning ordinances. The Aspen Team will assist MRCA with any required Los Angeles County, City of Malibu, and other jurisdictional coordination, as needed. Aspen will also evaluate the potential impacts to adjacent land uses (i.e., residences, Corral Canyon Park, Malibu Creek State Park, and Pepperdine University) from increased usership of the proposed project site.

Task 1: Project Kick-off and Project Description

Upon issuance of a notice to proceed by the MRCA, Aspen's Project Manager will meet with the MRCA's Project Manager to refine the scope of work for the project. This coordination will include review of all project materials, identification of potential issues of concern, and characterization of the level of effort anticipated to be required to produce quality environmental documents. Any revisions to the scope of work or anticipated level of effort may require a commensurate revision to the proposed cost and schedule. Aspen will work closely

with the MRCA regarding any anticipated changes to the scope of work, and to ensure that the MRCA is comfortable with the scope, cost, and schedule.

Aspen will attend a project “kick-off” meeting at MRCA’s Los Angeles office. The purpose of this meeting will be to disseminate the relevant project information such as any existing technical reports, background data, and project characteristics. This meeting will also be used as a forum for discussing the key issues and concerns associated with the proposed project.

As described in the RFP Attachment 2 (Scope of Services), Aspen will prepare a complete project description for inclusion in the focused EIR, based on current plans for the proposed project. The project description will include all proposed and optional project elements; figures and maps depicting project location and features; project construction details including schedule, equipment, and workforce; and any staging areas or other off-site impact areas. The project description will also identify anticipated permits and approvals from other agencies.

Task 1 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will provide an electronic version of the draft project description to the MRCA and will finalize the project description based on one (1) consolidated set of comments from the MRCA.

Task 2: Technical Studies

The following technical studies and supporting documentation will be prepared for the proposed project and incorporated into the Focused Draft EIR prior to release for public review.

Biological Assessment Report. For all new development located in, or within 200 feet of, H1, H2, or H2 “High Scrutiny” Habitat as mapped on the County’s Biological Resources mapping, a biological assessment report is required, prepared in accordance with Section 22.44.1870 of the Coastal Zone Local Implementation Program (LIP). Aspen’s subcontractor, Dan Cooper, will prepare a full Biological Assessment Report (BAR) documenting the biological resources on the project site, to be based on a literature review and field survey. The BAR will support the analysis of impacts to biological resources in the Focused EIR, and will be used by MRCA as part of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application, and as part of the compliance requirements for permitting future development. Our report, and its recommendations, will conform to the relevant sections of the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone LIP treating both biological surveys and any other existing uses. These include Sections 22.44.1800-1950 “Biological Resources” (includes Biological Review, habitat categories such as H1, H2, etc.; wetlands and mitigation). We note that the project property contains mapped or observed features and areas that require special attention, including wetlands (mapped - not necessarily present), oak trees, wildlife corridor habitat, and rare plant habitat. These will be assessed in the BAR.

Our approach is based on extensive prior work in the region, familiarity with the project site, review of other environmental documents and biological resources technical reports, field surveys of the general area on other projects, and experience with state and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and streambed permitting on prior projects. The BAR will document a thorough review of literature and species databases (California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDDB], California Native Plant Society [CNPS], herbarium and museum records, USFWS Critical Habitat Maps), review of available reports or relevant biological technical studies completed in the area, and consultation with local experts and resource agency staff.

The BAR will summarize applicable background data and describe the methods and results of our field surveys, including occurrence likelihood of each special-status species. The BAR will include a map of vegetation and habitat, including areas of suitable habitat for special-status species. Field work would consist of a reconnaissance survey, vegetation mapping, and protocol-level rare plant surveys (to be conducted in spring/early summer).

Cultural Resources Technical Report. Cultural resources represent and document activities, accomplishments, and traditions of previous civilizations and link current and former inhabitants of an area. Archaeological

resources include areas where prehistoric or historic activity measurably altered the earth or deposits of physical remains (e.g., arrowheads, bottles) discovered therein. Architectural resources include standing buildings, districts, bridges, and other structures of historic or aesthetic significance.

The Aspen team will prepare a CEQA Cultural Resources analysis, conduct a record search, and prepare an associated letter report to support the analysis of cultural resources in the EIR. In order to complete the CEQA analysis, a record search and associated historical research will be required. Changes in the size and location of the project elements from those described in the RFP would require a revised cost estimate.

Key cultural resources concerns include impacts to prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, historical elements of the built environment, and ethnographically important places. Aspen's analysis will involve the following tasks:

- Complete a standard (not expedited) archaeological literature and records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), located at California State University, Fullerton. This search will identify information regarding previously recorded sites and studies performed within the landfill property boundary and extending another 1/4-mile beyond the boundary. Our cost assumes that 2 previously recorded sites and 5 previous projects will be found in the record search area.
- Conduct archival research focused on historic maps to identify any potentially significant historic-era resources that may be present on or below the surface within the boundaries of Sites A and B or nearby.
- Contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a review of the Sacred Sites File.
- Prepare a Cultural Resources Letter Report in Word format that would comply with CEQA guidelines and procedures and would be suitable for use in Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation. This letter report will include a project description, project area map, cultural setting, methods, CHRIS record search results, historical map review, Sacred Sites search results, a summary of AB 52 consultation efforts to date, and recommendations for mitigation measures and further cultural resources management. Our cost assumes digital submission of the letter report and one round of review and revision.
- Information in the letter report will be used to write the cultural resource section of the Focused EIR which would include a setting and existing conditions, assessment of impacts to significant resources, and mitigation measures to reduce significant project impacts.

Paleontology Record Search. Paleontological resources are any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth. In order to complete the CEQA analysis, a record search at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum and background research will be required for all project components. Changes in the size and location of the area of impacts may require a revised cost estimate. The proposed project area is located on primarily older Quaternary and Miocene age deposits and may contain sensitive paleontological resources. The information gathered during the background research will be used to write the paleontological section of the EIR. No paleontological technical report will be prepared.

Optional Pedestrian Survey. If needed, the pedestrian survey would be brief, requiring one cultural resources specialist for no more than one day. If any cultural resources are identified they would be documented and mapped to facilitate avoidance. Our cost assumes that one small resource will be identified and recorded.

LCP Consistency Analysis Technical Memorandum. Aspen will prepare a consistency analysis in matrix format to assess the project's expected consistency with all applicable elements of the Santa Monica Mountains and City of Malibu LCPs. The findings of the consistency analysis will be documented in a memorandum that will support the analysis and conclusions in the Focused EIR. The summary of the LCP consistency analysis would be provided in the Effects Not Found to be Significant chapter of the EIR. However, Optional Task 9 (Full EIR LCP

Consistency Analysis) describes the approach if the technical memorandum identifies potential LCP conflicts that would warrant detailed analysis in the Focused EIR.

Task 2 Deliverables and Review

Each of the three technical reports will be provided to MRCA electronically (in Word and PDF versions). One round of review and revision with one (1) consolidated set of comments (if there are multiple commenters) from MRCA are assumed for each report.

Task 3: Administrative Draft EIR

As described above, Aspen proposes to streamline the proposed project's CEQA process by completing an "Effects Not Found to be Significant" chapter in the Focused Draft EIR, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15128. We have successfully used this approach on a number of other projects and have found it to reduce the time and cost required for completion of the CEQA documentation. This chapter would be prepared in lieu of preparation of a CEQA Initial Checklist form, which normally accompanies the project Notice of Preparation.

It is assumed, based on our knowledge of the project area, our experience with similar projects, and information provided in the RFP and Bid Clarification memo, that the project may have the potential to result in potentially significant or adverse impacts to the following issue areas: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Noise, and Transportation and Traffic. The remaining issues areas typically addressed under the Initial Study Checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines will be assessed in the "Effects Not Found to be Significant" chapter, with detailed discussions documenting the determination and justification that effects would not occur or would be less than significant.

Aspen notes that proposed changes to the Appendix G environmental checklist include new questions related to transportation and wildfire, pursuant to Senate Bill 743 and Senate Bill 1241, respectively. The EIR will address these issues consistent with the Proposed Updates to the CEQA Guidelines (November 2017).

- The Focused Draft EIR would consist of the following sections:
- Executive Summary;
- Introduction;
- Project Description;
- Environmental Impact Analysis that includes (1) Effects Found Not Significant, (2) Air Quality, (3) Biological Resources, (4) Cultural Resources, (5) Noise, and (6) Transportation and Traffic;
- Alternatives;
- Other CEQA Considerations (including growth inducing and significant unavoidable effects);
- Organizations and Persons Consulted;
- References;
- Glossary;
- Acronyms and Abbreviations;
- EIR Preparers and Reviewers; and
- Appendices (technical reports, as described under Task 2 and any additional reports deemed necessary by MRCA under optional tasks).

The **Environmental Impact Analysis** section of the Focused Draft EIR would be based on the technical studies prepared under Task 2, as well as the following data sources:

- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** Aspen will prepare air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions calculations to support the analyses of impacts presented in the Draft EIR. The emissions calculations will include the following:

- A description of the emissions calculation methodology and assumptions, including a table with the construction phase equipment and trip assumptions
- CalEEMod and/or Excel Spreadsheet emissions calculations for project construction and operation, including indirect GHG emissions sources if relevant.
- Summary tables of the emissions as necessary for comparison with significance thresholds.

Aspen anticipates that greenhouse gas emissions from the proposed project would be minimal, and this issue would be addressed in the Effects Not Found to be Significant chapter of the Draft EIR. Air quality would be addressed in a full EIR analysis, as impacts would likely require mitigation.

- **Noise Measurements.** Aspen's approach to noise will begin by conducting two to four ambient daytime noise measurements at sensitive receptor locations adjacent to the project area, assumed to be residences at Pepperdine University located immediately east of the project, as well as residences on Puerco Canyon Road near its intersection with Pacific Coast Highway. Measurements are expected to last 30-60 minutes in duration to provide an adequate snapshot of typical noise levels at these sensitive receptor locations, documenting the main noise sources (traffic, human activities, etc.). These measurements will support the EIR's noise analysis.

The noise analysis will consider all aspects of construction and use of the proposed facility, from equipment use to project-related traffic along travel routes. While development of the proposed project would result in temporary construction-based noise, due to the limited duration of these activities, the focus of the noise analysis will be on permanent noise expected from vehicle access and use of the proposed recreational facility (including dog barking, camping, hiking and day use areas, and other uses expected to generate noise that could be heard by adjacent residences).

Before assessing noise impacts from proposed activities, details such as predicted decibel levels, duration, etc. for each activity will be verified in comparison to the location of adjacent noise sensitive receptors and noise performance standards identified within the City of Los Angeles Noise Ordinance. Additionally, the noise analysis will consider any concerns presented during public scoping. Predicted noise levels from construction and operation will be compared against baseline conditions and thresholds presented in the County of Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter 12.08 (Noise Control). Feasible mitigation and an assessment of the effectiveness of proposed noise reduction features, monitoring plans, and other noise attenuation measures will be presented. Specific recommendations and noise mitigation components to reduce adverse impacts to the extent feasible may include ensuring all noise sources have enough distance from receptors to minimize noise, use of vegetation for attenuation, and limiting the hours of activities.

- **Traffic and Parking Analysis.** The establishment of the proposed camp and trailhead would introduce new traffic volumes along Puerco Canyon Road. The traffic and parking analysis will focus on the incremental contribution of new traffic volumes from use of the proposed project (baseline plus project-related trips). Environmental setting information will be based on a field study of the project area, which will focus on the study area's primary intersection of Puerco Canyon Road and Pacific Coast Highway. The study area intersection and adjacent road segments will be inventoried to document physical characteristics as number of lanes, types of traffic control devices, available parking and restrictions, driveway/access locations, and presence of any pedestrian/bicycle lanes. The traffic and parking analysis will consider how "with project" traffic will affect before and after conditions on study area roadways and intersections (i.e., conditions with and without proposed project). Furthermore, while CEQA Appendix G (Initial Study Checklist) no longer includes the analysis of impacts to available public parking, Aspen will work with MRCA

and interested parties (based on public and agency scoping comments) to address potential impacts to neighborhood parking availability on study area roadway segments and any need for mitigation ensuring neighborhood residents are not adversely impacted. Additionally, the analysis will discuss overall motorist and bicycle safety from use of residential streets to access project trails.

Aspen will develop up to two (2) **Action Alternatives** and the **No Project Alternative** scenario. The action alternatives will include project modifications to reduce or avoid impacts, such as reducing the extent of the proposed improvements, relocating the proposed improvements so that no fire access or infrastructure is required beyond Site A, or establishing a secondary fire access road through the Corral Canyon property. The EIR Alternatives section will provide the screening results of, and justification for, alternatives dismissed and those brought forward for CEQA-level analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15130 requires that an EIR consider whether the incremental effect of a project is cumulatively considerable. Aspen will develop a list of **cumulative projects** within the project study area (i.e., past, present, and probable future projects) that are relevant to the types of impacts that may be associated with the proposed project. If applicable, the EIR will examine reasonable, feasible options for mitigating or avoiding the project's contribution to any significant cumulative effects.

Task 3 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will provide an electronic version of the Administrative Draft EIR to the MRCA. To facilitate efficient document revision, MRCA will provide Aspen one (1) consolidated set of comments from all reviewers. One round of review and revision of the administrative draft document are assumed.

Task 4: Focused Draft EIR

Upon receipt of the consolidated comments from MRCA, Aspen will revise the administrative draft document and submit a finalized Focused Draft EIR ready for publication.

Task 4 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will provide two electronic versions of the finalized Draft EIR to the MRCA: one file will be bookmarked and ready for upload to MRCA's website, and the other version will be print-ready to facilitate preparation of hard copies. Our cost proposal assumes any hard copies or CDs will be prepared by MRCA. However, Aspen can prepare these materials as optional deliverables on a time-and-materials basis.

Task 5: Final EIR and MMRP

FINAL EIR AND MMRP

After the close of the 45-day public review period, Aspen will initiate preparation of the final environmental document, coordinating with the MRCA to ensure all comments received are properly identified. Aspen will prepare responses for up to 25 individual comments and may also prepare "general responses" if groups of similar comments are identified. Aspen will work with the MRCA to confirm the approach to responding to comments. All necessary revisions to the text of the environmental document will be identified with a "strikeout and underline" technique to indicate what changes have been made. If any comments necessitate new technical

analysis or detailed legal review, Aspen will respond to those comments only after contacting the MRCA to negotiate a revised scope and cost estimate.

The Final EIR responses to comments must be submitted to public agencies that provided written comment on the Draft EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15008). Aspen will provide detailed instruction to the MRCA regarding compliance with this CEQA requirement.

Aspen will prepare a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which will identify each impact and its corresponding mitigation measure(s) and environmental commitments, the method of review verification, the party responsible for monitoring/reporting, and implementation phase.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION (NOD)

Aspen will prepare the Notice of Determination (NOD). The NOD must be submitted to the State Clearinghouse, as well as to each Responsible and Trustee Agency. Two (2) copies of the NOD must also be filed for posting with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five (5) working days of MRCA's approval of the project (Public Resources Code § 21092.3 and CEQA Guidelines § 15075). Aspen will provide the NOD to the MRCA, along with detailed instructions on submitting the NOD to the State Clearinghouse, to Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and to the County Clerk. The MRCA will be responsible for all filing fees, including the County Clerk filing fee and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife fee.

Task 5 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will provide the MRCA with an electronic version of the Final EIR Package, which will include comments received on the Draft EIR and the responses to those comments, a discussion of changes and clarifications that were made to the Draft EIR text to address public comments, and the MMRP. One round of review and revision of the Final EIR Package is assumed. The finalized version of the EIR Package will be provided in PDF format.

Aspen will prepare an electronic version of the NOD to be provided to the MRCA for review and approval.

Task 6: Public Review

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Aspen will prepare the Notice of Preparation (NOP) per the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15082. Aspen will provide the NOP to the MRCA, along with detailed instructions on submitting the NOP to the State Clearinghouse, to Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and to the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the project site via certified mail. Substantive public comments received on the NOP during the 30-day public scoping period will be considered and addressed in the EIR. The NOP will include a project location map (in color) as required by CEQA and would not exceed 4 pages.

CEQA DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLIC NOTICIING

CEQA requires a minimum 45-day public review period when a draft EIR is submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by State agencies. The State Clearinghouse requires a Notice of Completion (NOC) along with 15 hard copies of the Draft EIR executive summary and 15 CDs of the entire Draft EIR. Aspen will prepare the NOC, and will provide this document to the MRCA, along with detailed instructions on filing with the State Clearinghouse.

The Los Angeles County Clerk requires two (2) copies of the Notice of Availability (NOA) for a Draft EIR, as well as a County Clerk filing fee. Aspen will prepare the NOA, and will provide this document to the MRCA, along with detailed instructions on filing with the County Clerk. The MRCA will be responsible for the County Clerk filing fee.

Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, copies of a draft EIR should be made available to the public through the public library system. Aspen will provide detailed instructions on submitting hard copies of the Draft EIR to the identified libraries within the project area.

Aspen will prepare a newspaper notice regarding the availability of the Draft EIR. Aspen will provide this notice to the MRCA, along with detailed instructions on publishing the notice in the Los Angeles Times.

PUBLIC MEETING

Aspen will facilitate a public meeting in the City of Malibu to present and discuss the findings of the environmental document, which will facilitate the public's understanding of the project and mitigation measures, and to take comments. Aspen will work closely with the MRCA to assist in preparation of the presentation and provide supporting materials. Aspen will prepare handouts such as sign-in sheets, comment cards, and overview materials. Aspen's Project Manager, Public Meeting Facilitator, and up to three technical resource specialists will attend the public meeting on the Draft EIR.

Task 6 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will prepare and submit the NOP, NOA, and the newspaper notice to the MRCA for review and approval.

Aspen will develop content/format for and produce up to two (2) poster boards for the Draft EIR Public Meeting. Up to two (2) rounds of review by the MRCA are assumed prior to approval for production of boards. Posters will be 24 inches by 36 inches in size.

Optional Deliverables under Task 6: As described above, Aspen can assist with the following deliverables. The cost for these additional deliverables would be based on the time and materials required.

- File the NOP directly with the State Clearinghouse.
- Mail the NOP to Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the project site.
- Print 15 hard copies of the Draft EIR executive summary and create 15 CDs of the entire Draft EIR for submittal to the State Clearinghouse.
- File the Draft EIR notices directly with the State Clearinghouse and County Clerk.
- Submit newspaper notice for publication in the Los Angeles Times.
- Print hard copy(s) of the Draft EIR for public review at a local library.

Optional Task 7: AB 52 Notification

The goal of AB 52 is to promote the involvement of California Native American Tribes in the decision-making process when it comes to identifying and developing mitigation for impacts to resources of importance to their culture. To reach this goal, the bill establishes a formal role for tribes in the CEQA process. CEQA lead agencies are required to consult with tribes about potential tribal cultural resources in the project area, the potential significance of project impacts, the development of project alternatives and the type of environmental document that should be prepared. AB 52 specifically states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (PRC § 21084.2).

In support of agency consultation efforts, AB 52 requires the NAHC to provide a list of CEQA lead agencies within the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated. If a tribe wishes to be notified of projects they must submit a written request to the relevant lead agency. Within 14 days of determining that a project application is complete, or deciding to undertake a project, the lead agency must provide formal written notification to the appropriate tribes. The lead agency must begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a tribe's request for consultation. AB 52, like Section 106, requires government-to-government consultation. This means that while contractors can assist, the meetings must involve decision makers from both the CEQA lead agency and a participating tribe.

As an optional task, the Aspen team will provide the following AB 52 compliance support services:

- On behalf of the MRCA, prepare and send notification letters to all tribes currently on the MRCA list, and additional tribes that may be identified in the NAHC response letter.
- Letters will be sent via certified mail and email.
- Advise and assist MRCA staff with preparation for tribal consultation meetings, including presenting the results of cultural resources studies.
- In response to tribal input, prepare 2 draft standard mitigation measures related to tribal monitoring and inadvertent discoveries.
- Our cost estimate assumes that no sensitive tribal cultural resources will be identified as requiring mitigation measures.

Optional Task 7 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will prepare and send notification letters to all tribes currently on the MRCA list, and additional tribes that may be identified in the NAHC response letter. Aspen will also provide support via telephone and email correspondence to MRCA staff during AB 52 consultation process.

Optional Task 8: Scoping Meeting

A scoping meeting would be required for this project if it is determined to be of statewide, regional or areawide significance pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15206, which includes projects that are located in and would substantially impact: (1) the Santa Monica Mountains Zone (as defined by Section 33105 of the Public Resources Code) or (2) the California Coastal Zone (as defined in, and mapped pursuant to, Section 30103 of the Public Resources Code). Aspen can assist with the logistics for the set-up, preparation for, and conducting a scoping meeting. The cost for assistance with a project scoping meeting would be based on the time and materials required.

Optional Task 8 Deliverables and Review

Aspen will work closely with the MRCA to assist in preparation of the presentation and provide supporting materials. Aspen will prepare handouts such as sign-in sheets, comment cards, and overview materials (such as copies of the NOP). Aspen will develop content/format for and produce up to two (2) poster boards for the Scoping Meeting. Up to two (2) rounds of review by the MRCA are assumed prior to approval for production of boards. Posters will be 24 inches by 36 inches in size.

Optional Task 9: Full EIR LCP Consistency Analysis

If the LCP consistency technical memorandum identifies potential LCP conflicts that would warrant detailed analysis in the Focused EIR, then this issue will be carried forward for full analysis.

Optional Task 9 Deliverables and Review

Full Focused Draft EIR section addressing policy consistency, including analysis of alternatives and cumulative effects with regard to applicable policies.

Optional Task 10: Full EIR Public Services and Utilities Analysis

If requested by MRCA, Aspen would prepare a Public Services and Utilities Technical Report to document the project's need for, and demand on, public services and utilities including firefighting, water, electrical, and wastewater to determine project impacts. This report would support the analysis and conclusions in the Focused EIR, and under this task we assume detailed analysis in the Focused EIR.

Optional Task 10 Deliverables and Review

Public Services and Utilities Technical Report and full Focused Draft EIR section addressing public services and utilities, including analysis of alternatives and cumulative effects with regard to these issue areas.

Optional Task 11: Restoration Assessment for Site C

Aspen understands that MRCA is considering the potential to provide on-site mitigation for project impacts in the form of a riparian restoration project at Site C. Site C contains fill material within a likely historic drainage. Under Optional Task 11, Aspen will prepare a technical memorandum assessing the site's potential for riparian habitat restoration. The memorandum will include recommendations for further studies that may be required, as well as conceptual restoration approaches and techniques.

Optional Task 11 Deliverables and Review

The Restoration Assessment Technical Memorandum will be provided to MRCA electronically (in Word and PDF versions). One round of review and revision are assumed.

Optional Task 12: Secondary Fire Road

Under Optional Task 12, the EIR will contain an analysis of the potential effects of developing a secondary fire road to serve the project site (as shown in attachment to the RFP Bid Clarification Memo).

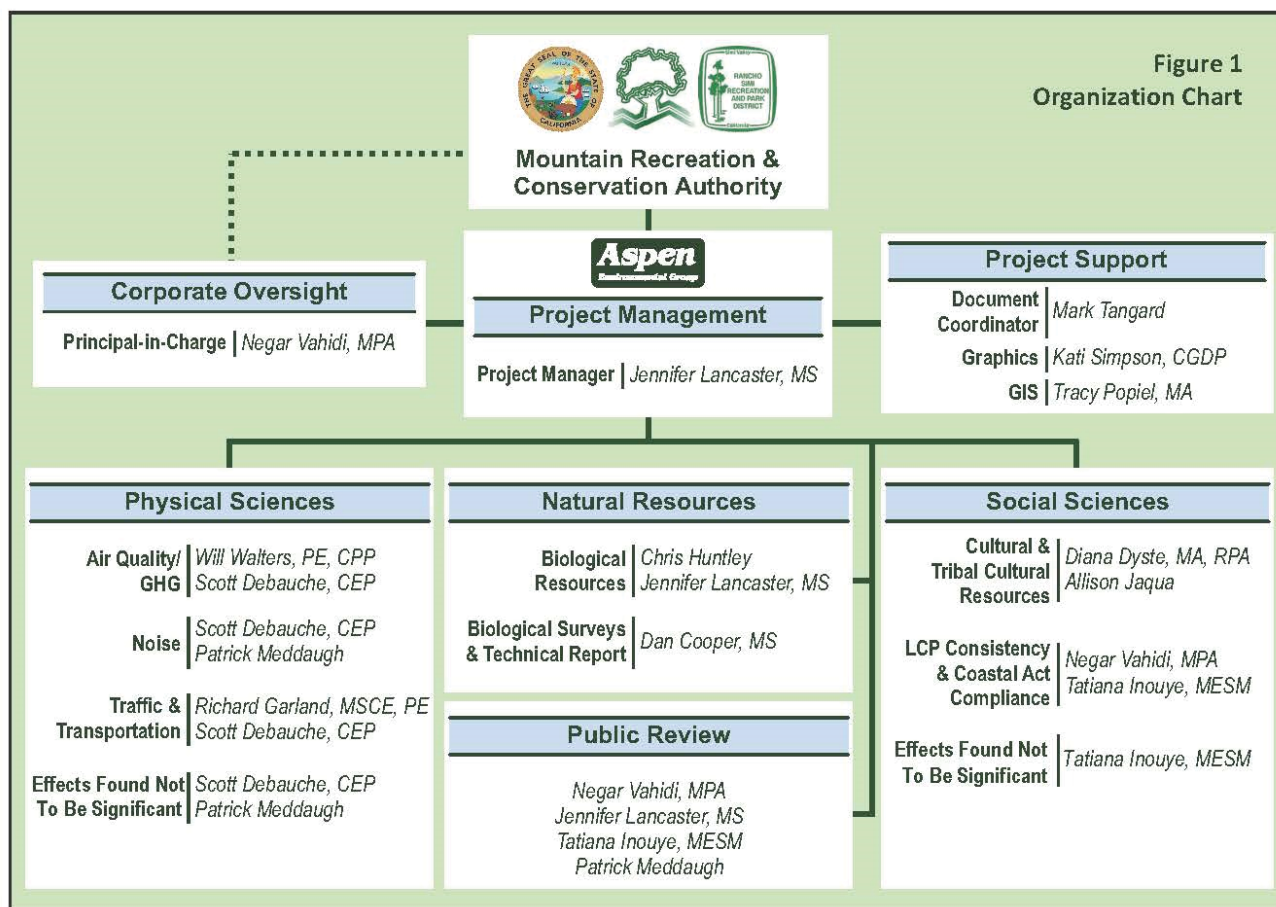
Optional Task 12 Deliverables and Review

Full consideration of the secondary fire access road in the Focused Draft EIR.

Project Team

Aspen – Prime Contractor

Aspen will serve as prime contractor for this contract. Aspen has assembled a team of experts with specific experience in public works projects, including trail and parkland projects. We have carefully selected environmental engineers, scientists, and planners with demonstrated experience to cover all of the issue areas identified in the RFP. In order to provide MRCA with the best possible service, we have augmented our team with two highly qualified and recognized subcontractors. All team members have recent and relevant local experience and are among the most noted experts in their respective fields. Figure 1 depicts the organization of the Aspen Team to be assigned to the MRCA.



Subcontractors

Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. Daniel S. Cooper is a consulting biologist and the author of Important Bird Areas of California (Audubon California 2004). He is recognized as an authority on California bird ecology, identification and distribution, and has a strong background in many aspects of southern California natural history, including plants, herptiles, and mammals. His geographic areas of expertise include the Santa Monica Mountains, Ballona Wetlands, Santa Clara River, Puente-Chino Hills, Palos Verdes peninsula, and remnant habitat patches across the floor of the Los Angeles Basin. Through Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., Mr. Cooper has designed and managed numerous monitoring projects and assessments for a wide variety of clients, including public agencies and municipalities, large consulting firms, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations. He has also developed and taught courses on local ecology through Loyola Marymount University and UCLA Extension School, conducted fieldwork overseas, and led field trips and nature tours for nearly 30 years.

In 2007, Mr. Cooper launched the Griffith Park Natural History Survey to inventory the biota of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains, which resulted in the release of the Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan in 2009, and later, the Flora of Griffith Park, published in 2017. In 2013, Mr. Cooper and Robert A. Hamilton worked closely with Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and Coastal Commission staff to produce “A Conservation Analysis for the Santa Monica Mountains” which served as a supplement for the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone’s Local Coastal Plan for Los Angeles County. He continues to conduct biological assessments and related reports for properties throughout the Santa Monica Mountains.

Garland Associates is a transportation planning/traffic engineering firm that has prepared traffic studies for hundreds of CEQA and NEPA documents. Mr. Richard Garland has over 30 years of experience in traffic engineering and transportation planning, having been involved in many aspects of the transportation field. He has conducted traffic impact, transit, parking, circulation, safety, and traffic control studies for a variety of locations and situations, ranging from individual development projects to regional planning efforts. Local recreational facility experience includes an access and parking utilization study for the beach parking lot in Santa Monica to assist the City of Santa Monica with an Ocean Park redevelopment plan, and an access, circulation, and parking study for the Laurel Canyon dog park located adjacent to Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles. His experience in the Malibu area includes an access and visibility study for a residential development on Lake Vista Drive near Malibu Creek State Park; a traffic, access, and parking study for the Malibu Colony shopping center; and a traffic and access study for the Crummer residential development adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu.

Negar Vahidi

Proposed Role: Principal-in-Charge, Public Participation, LCP Consistency and Coastal Act Compliance

Master of Public Administration; B.A., Political Science (with Highest Honors)

Negar Vahidi is a planner with **over 20 years of experience** managing and preparing a variety of federal, State, and local environmental, planning, and analytical documents for water and energy infrastructure and development projects. She specializes in the integration and completion of NEPA and CEQA documentation, land use, and public policy analyses, and socioeconomics and environmental justice analyses for energy and water infrastructure projects. Her relevant coastal, recreation, public facilities, and infrastructure experience includes:

- Project Manager for the Williamson Rock/Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Project EIS.
- CEQA Documentation Project Manager for the Fire Camp 8 Helipad Improvement Project in Malibu.
- Project Manager for Aspen's portions of the Shore Marine Terminal Lease Consideration Project EIR.
- Task Order Manager and Land Use Technical Specialist for several water infrastructure, supply, and facilities projects in coastal areas for DWR, LADWP, and USACE.
- Conducted the California Coastal Act Consistency Determination for the Carlsbad Energy Center Project on behalf of the California Coastal Commission.
- Analyzed recreational resources impacts and potential Coastal Act inconsistencies for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Steam Generator Replacement Projects.
- Task Manager for alternatives development, screening and analyses for three recent coastal power plants: the Alamitos Generating Station, and Redondo Beach and Huntington Beach Energy Projects.
- Social Sciences Task Manager for a special study which included identification and evaluation of potential issues associated with the possible modernization, re-tooling, or expansion of California's 25 coastal power plants. Tasks included a thorough review of applicable Local Coastal Plans, and Coastal Commission regulations associated with Coastal Development Permits and Consistency Determinations.
- Prepared the land and water use sections of the detailed Baseline Conditions Report for the Upper Newport Bay Environmental Restoration Project.
- CEC expert witness and Technical Senior for land use (since 2001), Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, and Alternatives analyses and special studies.
- Land Use Technical Specialist for several coastal city (Santa Monica, Dana Point, Huntington Beach) planning documents and associated EIRs.

Ms. Vahidi is **highly skilled in the planning and implementation of public outreach and participation programs** for agency planning and environmental review process efforts, including the development and implementation of public meetings, stakeholder interviews, focus group meetings, and workshop facilitation. She also manages the development and preparation of project outreach materials including, fact sheets, project newsletters, all CEQA procedural notices, meeting handouts and presentations, surveys, etc. She also assists her agency clients

with the development of web content for project web sites and posting of project documents and notices online.

Jennifer Lancaster

Proposed Role: Project Manager, Public Participation, Biological Resources

M.S., Biology; B.S., Biology (Conservation Biology Emphasis)

Jennifer Lancaster has **11 years of experience** managing and preparing documents in compliance with CEQA and NEPA. She also authors biological resources sections for IS/MNDs, EAs, EIRs, EISs, and joint CEQA/NEPA documents, as well as biological technical reports. In addition, Ms. Lancaster has experience conducting consultations with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Ms. Lancaster recently managed the CEQA and NEPA process for the **Coachella Valley Trails Development Project**. The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy was the CEQA Lead Agency and project proponent, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was the NEPA Lead Agency. She managed the Aspen team that prepared a joint IS/MND and EA for the development of three recreational trails and associated trailhead facilities in the northern Coachella Valley in Riverside County, near Joshua Tree National Park. The three trails would be mostly on conservation land previously acquired in accordance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. Some portions of the proposed trails and trailheads are also on public land administered by the BLM, and on several privately-owned parcels. Ms. Lancaster also managed preparation of the Biological Assessment and Cultural Resources Inventory, and is currently managing the biological and cultural resources construction monitoring for the first of the three trails to be constructed. Ms. Lancaster also prepared portions of the Biological Resources Assessment for the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning in support of the **Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan Update** currently under development.

Aspen has exceptional staff with a broad range of experience to support the MRCA in the expected tasks listed in the RFP and Bid Clarification Memo. **Resumes for all key Aspen team members are provided in Attachment A of this proposal.** In addition to the key staff members, Aspen employs many other environmental planners, scientists, and engineers, including a large staff of biologists and cultural resources specialists. Aspen also has an array of employees who provide various support functions, including geographic information systems (GIS), information technology, graphics, editing, report production, and accounting.

Conclusion

We have proposed a management team with extensive experience in the desired services requested for this contract. **Ms. Negar Vahidi** will provide contract oversight, LCP and Coastal Act consistency analysis, and will oversee the public outreach tasks, including facilitating the public meeting requested in the RFP. The project will be managed by **Ms. Jennifer Lancaster**, who will be the primary point of contact for the MRCA and will direct all Aspen Team work. She will coordinate team members, assuring that interdisciplinary coordination occurs, and ensuring dissemination of key data and assumptions to the team. The management team will be assisted by a seasoned group of experienced technical experts with experience throughout Southern California, including substantial experience in Los Angeles County. We have selected two subcontractors (Cooper Ecological and Garland Associates) who bring tremendous expertise, experience, and capacity to the Aspen Team.

I will represent Aspen during the selection process and any contract negotiations that may result. Should you need any further information regarding our Team, please do not hesitate to contact me at (818) 597-3407 or by e-mail at hrastegar@aspeneg.com.

Sincerely yours,

ASPEN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



Hamid Rastegar
President

2. Qualifications and Background

Please see **Attachment A** of this proposal for the Aspen Team resumes.

Representative Project Experience

Presented below are descriptions for selected projects ongoing or completed by Aspen within the last five years that demonstrate Aspen's capability to provide environmental review and documentation services to the MRCA.

Coachella Valley Trails Development Project

Aspen Project Team Members: Jennifer Lancaster (Project Manager), Will Walters (Air Quality), Scott Debauche (Social and Physical Sciences), Patrick Meddaugh (Social Sciences)

Client Contact: Jim Karpiak, (760) 776-9698

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (CVMC) proposes to develop or improve three trailhead sites, each with an associated non-motorized recreation trail. The three trails would be mostly on conservation land previously acquired in accordance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC). Some portions of the trails and trailheads are also located on federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), non-federal land owned or managed by several state and local agencies, and on several privately owned parcels. Collectively, the three trailheads and trails are known as the Coachella Valley Trails Development Project. The proposed federal action is authorized for trail and trailhead project components located on federal land.

Aspen prepared an EA/MND on behalf of the CVMC and the BLM to assess the environmental impacts associated with the Coachella Valley Trails Development Project (proposed Project). The proposed Project consists of the establishment or improvement of three trailhead sites, each with an associated non-motorized recreation trail. The three trails would be mostly on conservation land previously acquired in accordance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC). Some portions of the proposed trails and trailheads are also on public land administered by



the BLM. This joint EA/MND was prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively. The CVMC is the Project's CEQA Lead Agency, and the BLM is the NEPA Lead Agency. The EA/MND included evaluation of context and intensity of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects pursuant to NEPA and the significance of impacts pursuant to CEQA. An Initial Study Checklist was prepared for the Project and included in the EA/MND.

Aspen also prepared a Biological Assessment (BA) for the proposed project. The purpose of the BA was to review the proposed Coachella Valley Trails Development Project in sufficient detail to determine to what extent the proposed action may affect any of the threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species and designated or proposed critical habitats. The BA was prepared in accordance with legal requirements set forth under regulations implementing Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 402; 16).

Aspen performed a cultural resources study of the project in August 2015. The BLM required analysis of the potential for the project to adversely affect cultural resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as part of fulfilling its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). In order to identify any National or California Register-eligible cultural resources, Aspen conducted a cultural resource records search, reviewed the ethnographic literature, pursued historical background research, and carried out a pedestrian survey of the portions of the trails that cross federal property.

Aspen has been assisting the CVMC and the Friends of the Desert Mountains with biological and cultural resources monitoring during trail construction. The first of the three proposed trails, the Kim Nicol Trail (formerly the Corkill Trail), was constructed in January 2018.

Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project Technical Support

Aspen Project Team Members: *Negar Vahidi (Project Manager), Will Walters (Air Quality), Scott Debauche (Social and Physical Sciences), Tatiana Inouye (Social Sciences)*

Client Contact: *Nadia Parker, (213) 367-1745*

Aspen, under an on-call contract to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), prepared technical reports and a Focused EIR for the Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project. The Project would replace the existing Redmont Pump Station facility with a new pump station and new steel reservoir tank. The Project is necessary to provide a reliable water source to the Sunland-Tujunga community of the City of Los Angeles. The Project would be located at the existing pump station and reservoir site, and construction would occur in two phases over a two-year period as to not interrupt service.



The Aspen team was tasked with preparing four technical reports to support preparation of a Focused EIR:

- The Protected Tree Report provided an analysis and recommendations pertaining to the required removal of two Coast Live Oak trees within the site.
- The Air Quality Technical Report provided emission calculations for construction and operation of the Project, comparing estimated emissions against applicable SCAQMD daily thresholds and proposed mitigation.
- The Noise Technical Report provided estimated noise levels during construction and operation of the Project, comparing these levels against applicable City of Los Angeles thresholds and proposed mitigation.
- The Traffic Technical Report provided construction access routes, estimated daily traffic volumes from construction, and conducted a LOS analysis for study area roadway segments and intersections. Mitigation to reduce potential traffic flow impacts was proposed.

Upon completion of the technical reports, Aspen prepared a Focused EIR, which fully analyzed potential air quality, noise, and traffic impacts associated with the Project. Aspen also provided support to LADWP at the Draft EIR public meeting, prepared all project notices and filings, and prepared the Final EIR.

Fire Camp 8 Helipad Improvement

Aspen Project Team Members: Negar Vahidi (Project Manager), Tatiana Inouye (Social Sciences)

Client Contact: Alioune Dioum, (626) 300-3273

Aspen prepared a CEQA Categorical Exemption supported by a Technical Memorandum for the construction of a 6-inch-diameter, 1,807-foot-long water pipe in Malibu, California, within unincorporated Los Angeles County. The project was constructed within the existing County of Los Angeles Fire Department training facility referred to as Fire Camp 8, located in the hills of Malibu off of S. Rambla Pacifico. The purpose of the technical memorandum was to demonstrate that the proposed project met the criteria of the Class 1 and Class 3 CEQA categorical exemptions without any of the exceptions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Aspen also prepared the CEQA Notice of Exemption form for filing with the Los Angeles County Clerk.



The purpose of the project was to supply water to three fire hydrants which would be used by firefighting helicopters to withdraw water. The existing facility was developed with administrative buildings,

dorms, fire-fighting training apparatus, fire engines, fire house, and helipads. The water line would be located within existing, highly-disturbed areas (un-vegetated compacted dirt and asphalted areas) of the Camp facility.

Additionally, Aspen conducted a survey of the facility to inform the Technical Memorandum in support of the Categorical Exemption.

Williamson Rock/Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Project

Aspen Project Team Members: *Negar Vahidi (Project Manager), Scott Debauche (Social and Physical Sciences), Tatiana Inouye (Social Sciences), Chris Huntley (Biological Resources), Jennifer Lancaster (Biological Resources)*

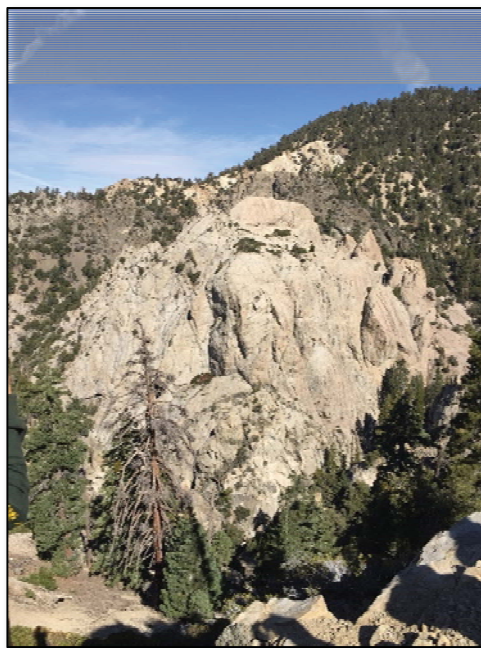
Client Contact: *Jim Bond, (415) 243-3107*

Aspen is providing NEPA Assistance to the USDA Forest Service, Angeles National Forest (ANF) to enable preparation of the Williamson Rock/Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Project EIS. This EIS evaluates the impacts associated with allowing renewed access to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) and limited access to Williamson Rock for rock climbing, while protecting the federally listed mountain yellow-legged frog (MYLF) and other unique resources. The area has been closed to the public since December 2005, either by Forest Order or court injunction, to protect the MYLF.

The Forest Service has received high demand for the resumption of recreation opportunities in the Williamson Rock area. Consistent with the Angeles National Forest Land Management Plan recreation goals and objectives, there is also a need for a quality, sustainable rock climbing opportunity at Williamson Rock. Another recreation opportunity also includes public use and enjoyment of the PCT where it passes through the project area, in accordance with the management objectives specified in the PCTA/Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding and Comprehensive Management Plan for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

In addition to preparing the EIS, Aspen is preparing multiple technical reports to support the EIS including a Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation, Weed Inventory, Hydrology and Soils Report, and a Cultural Resources Analysis. Aspen is also providing support with the public involvement and outreach, and supporting consultation with Native American Tribes as well as regulatory agencies, including the USFWS.

Aspen is currently in the process of working on the Admin Draft EIS in collaboration with the ANF. The Draft EIS is expected to be published in late Spring/early Summer 2018.



Redwood Creek Trail Realignment and Dias Ridge Trail Extension Project

Aspen Project Team Members: *Fritts Golden (Project Manager)*

Client Contact: *Caroline Christman, (415) 561-3534*

The Redwood Creek Trail Realignment and Dias Ridge Trail Extension Project is located in the Redwood Creek watershed in Marin County, just south of Muir Woods National Monument. This project lands fall within both

the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and Mount Tamalpais State Park (See Figures 1 and 2). The National Park Service (NPS) and California State Parks (CDPR) required a joint Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS), which was prepared by Aspen for the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC). Aspen described and analyzed the project and its impacts, and prepared the documentation for both CEQA and NEPA compliance as well as compliance with NPS's requirements for project approvals on NPS lands.



As shown in Figure 2, the project will realign a portion of Redwood Creek Trail, install bridges over the creek and drainages to the creek, and restore degraded portions of the trail to bring it to current CDPR standards. Redwood Creek provides coho salmon migration and spawning habitat between the ocean and Muir Woods; the trail realignment and new bridges will enhance this important habitat. The project will reduce sedimentation into the Redwood Creek by removing fords through the creek, abandoning a segment of the existing trail and replacing it with a new segment outside of the creek's floodplain, replacing or rehabilitating the trail segments not meeting current standards, and

restoring areas of the landscape disturbed by the project.

Overall, on the Redwood Creek Trail portion of the project 3 bridges, 4 culverts, and 3 crib walls will be removed and 13 new bridges would be installed. These improvements will create a safer, more sustainable trail with reduced maintenance needs while also benefiting water quality in Redwood Creek, promoting natural drainage, reducing fine sediment delivery to the creek, facilitating coarse sediment delivery, and protecting habitat for listed aquatic species.

The Dias Ridge Trail Extension portion of the project will develop a new trail segment along Highway 1 to connect the southern ends of Redwood Creek Trail and Dias Ridge Trail. The Dias Ridge Trail Extension will be on federal land. It will address a 1,300-foot gap between the southern ends of the existing Redwood Creek and Dias Ridge trails at Highway 1. Currently, there is little to no separation between motorists and any pedestrians, equestrians, or bikers using the highway shoulder. The Dias Ridge Trail Extension will be parallel to, but separate from, the east side of Highway 1. When complete, the extension will eliminate the need for visitors to use the highway shoulder to get between the two trailheads.

The Project includes Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be employed during construction; these are integral to the project design. The Project also will comply with all required permits and approvals. Specific measures were identified to eliminate or minimize the degree of adverse effects that could otherwise result from project implementation. These measures will be implemented during construction, as appropriate for specific activities being conducted. They are considered part of the proposed Project and, therefore, are not identified as separate mitigation measures.

The trail width will be 4 feet, except for some sections that will be 5-foot wide to allow passing and at turns or grade changes with line-of-sight concerns. The Santos Meadow Bridge will be 6 feet wide.

The Dias Ridge Trail Extension addresses a 1,300-foot gap between the southern ends of the Redwood Creek and Dias Ridge trails at Highway 1. The extension of the Dias Ridge Trail will be developed parallel to the east side of Highway 1, but separate from the highway. This will eliminate the need for visitors to use the highway shoulder between the Dias Ridge Trail and the Redwood Creek Trail. In addition to this safety improvement,

the Dias Ridge Trail Extension would complete a loop composed of sections of the Redwood Creek, Miwok, and Dias Ridge trails, and provide safe access to nearby destinations and other trails. The Dias Ridge Trail Extension will be 6 to 8 feet wide, with the variation in width based on safety and line-of-sight concerns.

Client References

Table 1 presents reference information for three recent and comparable projects for which Aspen has provided environmental consulting services.

Table 1. Client References		
Client	Project Description	Scope of Services
<i>Coachella Valley Trails Development Project</i> Riverside County, CA		
Client: Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Contact: Jim Karpiak, Executive Director Tel: (760) 776-5026	Brief Narrative: The proposed project included the development of three recreational trails and associated trailhead facilities in the northern Coachella Valley in Riverside County, near Joshua Tree National Park. The three trails would be mostly on conservation land previously acquired in accordance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, as administered by the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission. Some portions of the proposed trails and trailheads are also on public land administered by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and on several privately-owned parcels. BLM was the NEPA lead agency. Ms. Lancaster, who is the proposed Puerco Canyon CEQA project manager, managed the joint IS/MND and EA and is currently managing construction monitoring for the project. Project Schedule: Feb. 2015 – Aug. 2016 (CEQA/NEPA); Jan. 2017 to present (construction monitoring) Budget: \$98,362	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Initial Study ■ EA/MND (NEPA/CEQA) ■ Biological surveys ■ Cultural resources surveys ■ Biological Assessment ■ Cultural Resources Inventory ■ Construction monitoring (biological resources, cultural resources)
<i>Redmont Pump Station and Tank Project Technical Support</i> Los Angeles, CA		
Client: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Contact: Nadia Parker Tel: (213) 367-1745	Brief Narrative: Under this Task Order, Aspen prepared multiple technical studies and a Focused EIR for the proposed Project which would replace the existing Redmont Pump Station facility with a new pump station and new steel reservoir tank. The Redmont Pump Station is the third in a series of five pump stations that delivers water to the area via two pipelines. The objective of this project is to replace the LADWP's aging water storage and pump facilities due maintenance and operational issues. The Redmont Reservoir will be replaced with a 468,000-gallon steel tank, and the existing Redmont Pump Station will be replaced with a dual pressure zone pump station. The proposed replacement would improve the water system reliability in the Sunland-Tujunga community and will reduce the facility's operations and maintenance costs. The new dual zone pump station will also support water delivery via two underground pipelines to a future tank and meet the fire demand requirements placed on the system by the proposed Canyon Hills Development project. Project Schedule: June 2015 – Nov. 2016 Budget: \$150,090	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biological, Air Quality, Noise, and Traffic Technical Studies ■ Focused EIR preparation ■ MMRP ■ Public and agency involvement and notification ■ Findings of Fact ■ AB 52 consultation support

Table 1. Client References		
Client	Project Description	Scope of Services
<i>Redwood Creek Watershed Trails Project</i> Marin County, CA		
Client: Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy Contact: Caroline Christman Tel: (415) 561-3534	Brief Narrative: Aspen is preparing a joint CEQA/NEPA document for two adjoining trails south of Muir Woods National Monument. The project will relocate portions of Redwood Creek Trail and install bridges at several crossings to reduce impacts to this important salmon stream. Degraded portions of the trail and watershed will be restored and stabilized. A new connector trail will be built between the Redwood Creek Trail and the existing Dias Ridge Trail. The trails are on National Park and State Park lands. Aspen prepared the CEQA/NEPA document, and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, for these trails as well as consulted with the lead agencies on appropriate mitigation. Project Schedule: May 2013 to March 2018 Budget: \$60,635	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Initial Study ■ EA/MND (NEPA/CEQA) ■ Draft FONSI

Litigation History

Aspen has not had any litigation history in the last five years. Aspen has no terminations for default, litigation by or against the firm, or judgements entered for or against the firm.

3. Proposed Budget & Fees

Aspen's proposed cost to complete the Focused EIR, including public review tasks and supporting technical studies, for the proposed project is provided in **Attachment B of this proposal**. The cost spreadsheet follows the format provided in the RFP with one-line item per type of activity. Each line item includes anticipated quantity, time, and proposed unit price. Costs have been divided into two categories: labor and non-labor. Total proposed labor costs are \$113,790 and total proposed non-labor costs are \$1,309. The total proposed cost to complete the environmental review and documentation services for the Puerco Canyon Camp and Trailhead Project is **\$115,099** (excluding optional tasks).

4. Proposed Project Timeline/Schedule

Aspen has an excellent record of meeting deliverable dates for all products. Our experience allows us to develop internal schedules that are consistent with agency timelines and then mobilize resources needed to meet the schedules. Aspen only finds it acceptable to extend schedules for reasons beyond our control (such as project suspensions or schedule extensions initiated by the client). However, if the need arises, Aspen will quickly and efficiently put projects on hold in order to preserve the budget, and will remobilize immediately when needed to meet new schedule demands.

Our proposed Project Manager, Ms. Jennifer Lancaster, will ensure resource availability and schedule compliance, and will maintain regular contact with the MRCA. Based on Aspen's experience in preparing environmental documents, and our substantial knowledge of the proposed project location, we are confident that our Team can prepare a high-quality document meeting the MRCA's expectations within the timeframe presented in Table 2, below.

Table 2. Focused EIR Preparation Schedule		
Deliverable/Event	Date	Timeframe
Task 1: Project Kick-Off and Project Description		
Notice to Proceed Issued/ Project Kick-off Meeting	5/4/18	Approximate start date based on Proposal submittal date and 3 to 4 week proposal review period
Submit Project Data Request to MRCA	5/11/18	Within 1 week of Project Kick-off Meeting
MRCA responses to Data Request	5/18/18	1 week for MRCA review
Submit draft Project Description to MRCA for review	5/25/18	Within 1 week of receiving Data Request responses
MRCA provides one consolidated set of revisions/comments on Project Description	6/8/18	2 weeks for MRCA review
Finalize Project Description incorporating MRCA revisions/comments	6/15/18	1 week for Aspen to incorporate changes
Task 2: Technical Studies		
Technical Reports to MRCA	6/8/18	~ 5 weeks from Project Kick-off Meeting
MRCA provides comments on Technical Reports	6/22/18	2 weeks for MRCA review
Revised Technical Reports to MRCA	7/6/18	2 weeks for Aspen to incorporate changes
Task 3: Administrative Draft EIR		
Prepare and submit Administrative Draft EIR to MRCA for review	7/18/18	~ 3 weeks following Scoping
MRCA provides one consolidated set of revisions/comments on Administrative Draft EIR	8/1/18	2 weeks for MRCA review
Task 4: Focused Draft EIR		
Incorporate MRCA comments/ revisions into Draft EIR	8/1/18 to 8/15/18	2 weeks for Aspen to incorporate changes
Submit print-ready Draft EIR to MRCA	8/15/18	~ 7 weeks following Scoping
Task 5: Final EIR and MMRP		
Prepare and submit draft response to comments on Draft EIR for MRCA review	10/5/18 to 10/19/18	2 weeks for Aspen to address public comments
Prepare Administrative Final EIR (includes any text changes)	10/26/18	~ 3 weeks following Public Review Period
MRCA provides one consolidated set of revisions/ comments on Final EIR package	11/2/18	1 week for MRCA review of Final EIR package
Incorporate revisions and provide MRCA with Final EIR package for filing and distribution	11/9/18	1 week for Aspen to incorporate changes
Prepare and submit draft NOD to MRCA for review	10/26/18	~ 3 weeks following Public Review Period
Incorporate revisions and provide MRCA with revised NOD for CEQA noticing	11/9/18	~ 5 weeks following Public Review Period
Task 6: Public Review		
Prepare NOP and submit to MRCA for review	5/11/18	Within 1 week of Project Kick-off Meeting
Incorporate revisions and provide MRCA with revised NOP for CEQA noticing	5/23/18	Within 3 days of receiving MRCA revisions. Assume 1 week for MRCA review
Distribution of NOP	5/24/18 to 5/25/18	Assume overnight delivery of NOP to State Clearinghouse and Responsible/Trustee Agencies
Public Scoping Period	5/25/18 to 6/24/18	30-day period following distribution of the NOP
Prepare NOA and submit to MRCA for review	8/10/18	1 week prior to public release of Draft EIR
Incorporate revisions and provide MRCA with revised NOA for CEQA noticing	8/15/18	~ 7 weeks following Scoping
Prepare newspaper notice and provide to MRCA for review	8/10/18	1 week prior to public release of Draft EIR

Table 2. Focused EIR Preparation Schedule

Deliverable/Event	Date	Timeframe
Incorporate revisions and provide MRCA with revised newspaper notice for publication	8/15/18	~ 7 weeks following Scoping
Prepare NOC and submit to MRCA for CEQA noticing	8/15/18	~ 7 weeks following Scoping
Submit poster boards to MRCA for review	8/24/18	1 week for MRCA review
Revise poster boards per MRCA edits; produce poster boards and meeting materials	8/31/18	1 week for Aspen to incorporate changes
Public Meeting on Draft EIR	TBD	During 45-day Public Review Period
45-day Public Review Period	8/20/18 to 10/4/18	45-day period that begins with filing of NOC and Draft EIR with the State Clearinghouse, and filing of NOA with the County Clerk
Optional Task 7: AB 52 Notification		
Contact NAHC and send AB 52 Letters on behalf of MRCA	5/11/18	Within 1 week of Project Kick-off Meeting
MRCA begins AB 52 Tribal Consultation	5/11/18 to 6/1/18	~ 1 to 4 weeks from Project Kick-off Meeting
End of 30-day Response Period for AB 52	6/1/18	~ 4 weeks from Project Kick-off Meeting
Optional Task 8: Scoping Meeting		
Public Scoping Meeting	TBD	During 30-day Public Scoping Period
Optional Task 9: Full EIR LCP Consistency Analysis		
Incorporate full analysis of LCP consistency in Administrative Draft EIR	7/25/18	~ 4 weeks following Scoping
Optional Task 10: Full EIR Public Services and Utilities Analysis		
Incorporate full analysis of Public Services and Utilities in Administrative Draft EIR	7/25/18	~ 4 weeks following Scoping
Optional Task 11: Restoration Assessment for Site C		
Prepare and submit Restoration Assessment Technical Memorandum to MRCA for review	6/8/18	~ 5 weeks from Project Kick-off Meeting
MRCA provides comments on technical memo	6/22/18	2 weeks for MRCA review
Revised Restoration Assessment Technical Memorandum to MRCA	7/6/18	2 weeks for Aspen to incorporate changes
Optional Task 12: Secondary Fire Road		
Incorporate full analysis of secondary fire access road in Administrative Draft EIR	7/25/18	~ 4 weeks following Scoping

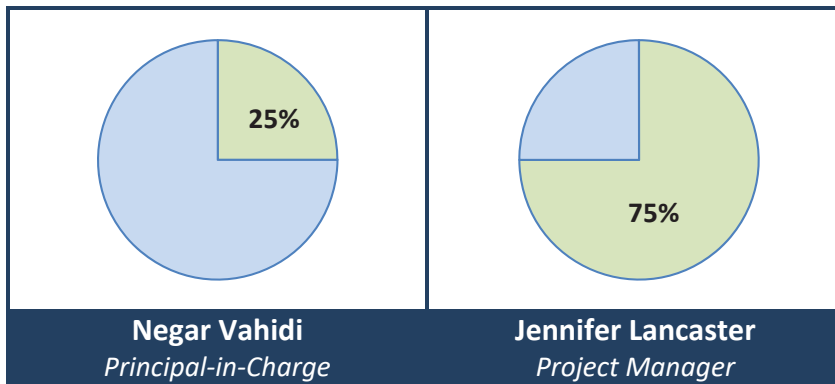
Aspen Team Time Commitment

The environmental documents for the proposed project will require several intense and careful periods of work, with less intensive periods between. Aspen's Project Manager and Senior Staff members are able to schedule the staff resources required to meet all needs of the MRCA, as well as those of other projects. Aspen has a long history of successfully managing multiple, concurrent projects.

Aspen knows that staff availability is very important for the proposed project. As we have demonstrated in many projects, many of them concurrent, over the past 25 years, the Aspen Team is always ready and able to prepare a high-quality document in accordance with the schedule that is developed for each project. The pie charts below show the average percentage of time that our Team is prepared to commit to the proposed project. The percentages shown are based on the expectation of a generalized schedule for document preparation. The availability percentages indicate the portion of time that could be devoted to the proposed project, averaged over the entire length of the project, as needed. This table does not illustrate the maximum

time spent on the proposed project during any particular time period, because there will be many time periods where various team members will be working full-time (100%) on this project.

Average Availability of the Aspen Management Team



Average Availability of Other Aspen Team Members

