



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: July 11, 2018

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XIV: Consideration of resolution authorizing purchase of equipment and vehicles for vegetation management.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing purchase of equipment and vehicles for vegetation management in an amount not to exceed \$570,000.

Background: In December 2017 MRCA was awarded a grant for vegetation management activities and purchase of various pieces of heavy equipment to support those activities. The Fire Division has been working with vendors over the past several months to secure reasonable offers for a water tender, two durable brush chippers, and a specialized mower for difficult terrain. The life span of all three items is expected to be at least ten years.

Water Tender: Currently the Fire Division uses a 1994 model water truck that has surpassed its life expectancy (over 175,000 miles) and does not meet current AQMD diesel engine standards. The replacement water tender will serve multiple purposes: to support vegetation management activities, to assist with trail construction and maintenance, and to serve as a Type II tactical tender during firefighting operations. After careful consideration of design/build characteristics, delivery schedule, and prices from three bids, the preferred model is a 2,000-gallon model from Fouts Bros. Fire Equipment, a commercial truck manufacturing company. The base price of the unit is \$231,521, and with California use tax and customization the final cost of the new water tender will not exceed \$280,000. The final price will be determined when ordered depending on the add-on options and customization. Once in service, the old tender will be removed from use pursuant to the agency's property disposal policies.

Brush Mower: A self-propelled track mounted flail mower with wireless capability is proposed to support the agency's increasing brushing demands. The desired model is a multipurpose self-propelled brush mower configured to support attachments

including a heavy brush cutting head, a stump grinder head, and a flat blade to support trail maintenance operations. Staff analysis indicates the best option is the TRAXX RF remote-controlled slope mower from Alamo Industrial, which is capable of operation on slopes of up to 60 degrees. The base price of the unit is \$100,196, and with California use tax and customization the final cost will not exceed \$120,000. The final price will be determined when ordered depending on the add-on options and customization.

Brush Chipper: New heavy-duty brush chippers are desired to augment the agency's capabilities. Currently two aging units are in service but their life span is quickly diminishing, while their repair and operation costs increase each year. Upon analysis of three bids, staff indicates that the best option is the Brush Bandit M-18XP from Cal-Line Equipment. The base cost of a single new chipper is \$74,057 (including Los Angeles County sales tax and a CMAS government discount), and with customization the final cost will not exceed \$85,000 each. The final price will be determined when ordered depending on the add-on options and customization. Initially only one chipper may be purchased, with a second purchase occurring later after additional budget analysis.

Consideration: The combined cost of the items will not exceed \$570,000. Purchasing will be completed through a Purchase Order process with each company.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for all three purchases comes from an existing Proposition 1 grant for vegetation management, and the expenditures will be included in the final FY 2018-19 budget. Staff time to coordinate the purchases will be paid from the grant funds and this is also anticipated. It is expected that some savings to the Fire Division budget will result because of increased efficiencies and reduced need for equipment repairs.

If the equipment is not purchased, MRCA could continue to use the aged equipment until those units are no longer repairable. A chipper and mower could be rented on an as-needed basis, and that would be an eligible cost for vegetation management grants. However the accumulated costs for frequent rentals over the ten-year life span of new equipment would exceed the proposed purchase costs. This would likely have a negative impact on the general fund.