



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

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

DATE: November 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(d): Consideration of resolution amending the contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for the development of an Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an amendment to the contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for the development of a Revitalization Plan for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries in an amount not to exceed \$965,000.

Background: On September 14, 2018, the Governing Board authorized a professional services contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. for phase 1 of the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan (Plan), in the amount of \$400,000.00, subsequently the Governing Board approved a contract amendment for \$430,000.00 on March 6, 2019. Since Spring 2019, the Plan has evolved and required additional scope, services and funding.

Tetra Tech was recommended for selection by the Working Group based on their qualifications for the Plan's entire development, not only the first phase of work. The first phase of work was defined as Inventory and Analysis, Initial Opportunity Sites, Constraints Analysis and Draft Framework, and this work has been performed satisfactorily and is on schedule.

The Conservancy's Working Group has met on a monthly basis since August 2018, in full session and as committees. In addition to the parameters established by the various pieces of legislation, the Working Group has made other decisions which dramatically expanded the scope of work, and consequently the cost, of the Plan. These include the geographic extent of study - how far away from the waterways should the analysis be conducted; the amount, complexity and scope of the community outreach effort; the number of site-specific designs and their level of detail; studying additional tributaries, such as the Sepulveda Basin drainages; and increasing the amount and complexity of hydrologic engineering conducted.

Since the contract's initial award, the following changes to the project have occurred:

Legislation extended the Plan deadline to June 30, 2020;

Legislation added the Arroyo Seco tributary to the Plan's scope;

The Working Group elected to form two committees that each meet bi-monthly, in addition to the bi-monthly Working Group meetings;

The Working Group added the Aliso Canyon Wash and Burbank Western Channel tributaries to the Plan's scope;

The Working Group increased the amount and intensity of community outreach required to complete the Plan;

Staff authorized a modification to the Phase 1 scope to substitute a thorough tributary matrix analysis, including mapping, for the Constraints Analysis;

Staff authorized additional scope for Tetra Tech including development of an interactive mapping and survey tool and bilingual co-facilitation support and recording services for four (of eight) community meetings, in the amount of \$35,000; and

Staff amended the contract with Tetra Tech in March 2019 to authorize the Phase 2 scope in the amount of \$430,000. The Phase 2 scope of work included continued Draft Framework development, Constraints Analysis, a robust community engagement and outreach effort, Concept Development, and preparation of the Revitalization Plan; and

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has augmented the grant by \$2,700,000.

However, during the Working Group's committee meetings in August 2019, it was noted that there are still elements beyond the Phase 2 scope that could be more robustly envisioned, or added to the scope, to better achieve the project's goals. These include exploration of channel modifications, potential diversions, and creation of new open space for habitat and recreation, and quantification of the project's metrics. Furthermore, if the region's critical needs for housing were incorporated into analysis, it could make the final Plan more relevant and applicable. The Working Group supported a resolution at the September 26, 2019 meeting to add the following components to the Plan to make it more visionary, relevant, and comprehensive. This will include:

The Working Group and staff directed deeper analysis of Opportunity Areas identified earlier on in the project, including but not limited to, more options for habitat enhancement, feasibility of river restoration, channel expansion, infrastructure modifications, water infiltration and storm water capture;

Working Group and staff request for further research and analysis for publicly and privately owned properties, while integrating and considering community needs for housing and open space for optimal results, in addition to anti-displacement strategies and recommendations;

The Working Group supported the addition of a Climate Change Analysis to quantify open space benefits and metrics;

The Working Group requested that public engagement efforts for plan dissemination should be initiated to distribute the final Plan. These efforts shall include additional outreach methods and development of an easily accessible document for mass distribution. Further, this includes multi-lingual communication and translation of all documents produced for this project.

Tetra Tech's fee proposal, based on their interpretation of the scope described in the attachments and assumptions about additional services required, now totals \$1,724,633 for all phases. At this time and with the prior approval of the Board, MRCA has secured funding to complete the Plan's final phase of work identified above. Staff and Tetra Tech have thoroughly reviewed and refined the scope for this final work based on input received to date as well as direction received from the Working Group.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize an amendment to the existing contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$965,000, for professional services related to the planning and development of a Revitalization Plan for the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries.

Fiscal Impact: The contract will be funded through an existing reimbursable grant from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy of Proposition 1, 84, and 68 funds. There is no impact on the general fund.