

**MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: *MD* Mary Dietrich, Facility Services Director
By: John Ramirez, Parks Administrator
Subject: Royal Gorge Easement Studies

Date: January 20, 2015

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Approve an Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$187,000 for easement alignment analysis through the Royal Gorge property, located near Donner Summit; and authorize the Director of Facility Services, or designee, to execute the Agreement, at no net County cost.

BACKGROUND: On October 23, 2012, your Board approved the allocation of \$300,000 of County Park Dedication Fees from Recreation Area #16, Serene Lakes Recreation Area, to help fund the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) and Trust for Public Land (TPL) acquisition of the 2,891-acre Royal Gorge property on Donner Summit (Property). As consideration for these monies, Facility Services negotiated a Funding Agreement with TDLT and TPL, which requires the grant of a multi-purpose trail easement traversing the Property from east to west. On December 20, 2012, TDLT and TPL successfully closed escrow and acquired the Property.

To perfect the Multi-purpose Trail Easement described in the Funding Agreement, staff identified the studies and surveying required to define the alignment of a 50-foot wide public multi-purpose trail easement that respects sensitive biological and archaeological resources. The Parks Division estimated that a total of \$200,000 would be required for this work, and on February 5, 2013, your Board appropriated \$200,000 from Park Dedication Fees Recreation Area #16, Serene Lakes Recreation Area, to the Royal Gorge Studies Project No. 4895.

The Parks Division forwarded a Request for Quotes (RFQ) to three firms on the County Qualified List of Consultants that perform environmental analysis in eastern Placer County. This RFQ described the tasks required for field reconnaissance of approximately 1,000 acres of land in the vicinity of the original Overland Emigrant Trail. This scope includes biological, topographic, soils, hydrological, archeological/paleontological and traffic studies that will support the definition of an easement alignment along an approximately 8-mile long corridor. These studies can also be used to support subsequent environmental review for the future multi-purpose trail.

Two firms elected to submit proposals, and following review of their materials and oral interviews, staff recommends entering into an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec). In order to proceed with this work, it is recommended your Board authorize the Director of Facility Services, or designee, to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with Stantec, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$187,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE: This analysis will include non-invasive studies that will be suitable for use in determining a preferred alignment the multipurpose trail and for subsequent environmental review. Data collection and resource evaluation tasks are categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Section 15306 - Information Collection.

FISCAL IMPACT: Sufficient funding is available in Royal Gorge Studies Project No. 4895. As this project was funded with Park Dedication Fees, there is no net County cost.

AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD'S OFFICE: CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

MD/MR/JR/KT

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