



MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
 County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: August 27, 2019

FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
 By: Brett Storey, Principal Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / Award Contract / French Meadows Forest Restoration Project

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve the award of a contract to Robinson Enterprises Inc. in a not to exceed amount of \$799,985 to perform mechanical thinning and biomass removal as part of the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project, and authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to execute the contract and any change orders up to 10 percent of the individual contract amount.

BACKGROUND

On May 14, 2019, your Board approved Modification Number 1 to the Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Tahoe National Forest (TNF) to the previously approved Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) for the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project (Project), which provides authority to perform mechanical forest thinning operations, mastication of smaller trees, and the removal of material for biomass all in a 22,000 acre region that surrounds French Meadows Reservoir.

On June 11, 2019, your Board approved the award of Task Order 1-Rebid for RFQ 100062 for two project implementation contracts to perform approximately 50 percent of the designated work for the 2019 work season for the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project. The remaining 50 percent of work has not yet been awarded. After bidding the work twice, the results were unsuccessful as the bids were well over the consulting Registered Professional Forester estimated cost of work amount. The County has met the requirements of a public bid and therefore, both staff and Procurement now recommend moving forward to find a set of qualified Contractors to perform the remaining items that were not awarded.

Staff has negotiated an amount of \$799,985 to perform the required thinning services for 372 acres of impacted area. Based on the two attempted bids this price is reasonable and appropriate for the work to be completed. The Procurement Services Division supports this recommendation as the most effective approach to complete the required work at this time. This request for contract approval is the third of several actions that will complete the proposed work during the 2019 operational season.

An estimated summary of secured and authorized funds available to support this work includes:

USFS/TNF SPA	\$150,000
Middle Fork Project (MFP)	\$75,000
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Agreement (NFWF & Private)	\$385,531
Cal Fire funding (via SNC Agreement)	\$1,000,000
Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant (PC)	\$235,000
CCC Agreement	\$150,000
Timber Receipts	\$1,300,000
Biomass Receipts	\$200,000
Total	\$3,495,531

In order to move forward with the 2019 work for the Project, Staff recommends that your Board approve award of this contract and authorize the Director of Public Works, or designee, to execute the contract and change orders up to 10%.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Two Notices of Exemption (NOE) were filed for this Project: 1) The Project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class 8 CEQA Categorical Exemption: Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment) because it is an action authorized by the Placer County Grading Ordinance that will help assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment, and the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. This exemption was filed on December 21, 2018; and 2) The Project is consistent with Senate Bill (SB) 901. SB 901 provides that until January 1, 2023, CEQA would not apply to prescribed fire, thinning, or fuel reduction projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This exemption was filed on January 24, 2019. The NEPA Decision Notice for the French Meadows Restoration Project was signed by the TNF Forest Supervisor on December 12, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

Access to the approximately \$3,500,000 in secured funding will be available from multiple sources (USFS SPA, Cal Fire grant - available via the SNC, TNC Agreement, MFP funds, SNC grant along with Timber and biomass receipts) on a reimbursable basis to use during the 2019 implementation season. The grant funding for MFP nexus projects will be budgeted in the Community and Agency Support appropriation in each fiscal year based on planned use. The matching funds will be provided from partner agencies, with no County General Fund cost aside from staff time.

ATTACHMENTS

None

On file with Clerk of the Board: Contract with Robinson Enterprises Inc.