



**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION**  
 County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: June 23, 2020  
 FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works  
 By: Brett Storey, Principal Management Analyst  
 SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / Award Contract / Red Mtn. Resource LLC / French Meadows Forest Restoration Project

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve the award of a contract to Red Mtn. Resource LLC in a not to exceed amount of \$1,056,300 to perform Mastication and Hand Thinning on approximately 723 acres 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 January 28, 2020, your Board approved Modification Number 3 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 within a 22,000 acre region that surrounds French Meadows Reservoir and is a part of the Middle Fork Project (MFP) operational area.

On April 21, 2020, your Board awarded Contracts to three contractors and rejected several work items included in the bid package as they were above the County budget estimates. Staff rebid RFQ 20036 and on June 6, 2020, your Board approved the award of three project implementation contracts to perform a portion of the designated work for the 2020 work items for the French Meadows Forest Restoration Project. The remaining work has not yet been awarded. After bidding the work twice, the County has met the requirements of a public bid and therefore, both staff and Procurement now recommend moving forward with a set of qualified Contractors to perform the remaining items that were not previously awarded.

Staff negotiated an amount of \$1,056,300 for several work items that were not bid on earlier to perform the required thinning and mastication services for 723 acres of impacted area. Based on the two-bid process, staff has determined that this price is reasonable and appropriate within the budget 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. The request for this contract award is the next of several Board actions this summer that will complete the remaining work items for the 2020 operational season.

An estimated summary of secured and authorized funds that will be utilized to complete the 2020 work on this Project is below (more funds are available if needed):

Timber Receipts	\$3,500,000
Cal Fire funding (via Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Agreement)	\$1,208,000
MFP	\$375,000
USFS/TNF SPA	\$370,000
SNC Grant	\$349,500

Biomass Receipts	\$150,000
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Agreement	\$47,500
Total	\$6,000,000

In order to move forward with the remaining 2020 work for the Project, staff recommends that your Board approve award of this contract to Red Mtn. Resource LLC 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 wildlife 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**

If all 2020 work is awarded, access to the approximately \$6,000,000 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 2020 implementation season. To date, a total of \$2,357,605 has been awarded, including the \$1,056,300 of this item. The grant funding for MFP nexus projects is budgeted in the Community and Agency Support appropriation during each fiscal year based on planned use.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

On file with Clerk of the Board: Contract with Red Mtn. Resource LLC