

DATE: June 26, 2017

TO: Watershed Conservation Authority Governing Board

FROM: Debbie Enos, Deputy Executive Officer

THROUGH: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 13: Consideration of a resolution to approve a contract extension with Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture for on-call weed abatement services.

RECOMMENDATION: The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) Governing Board approve a contract amendment with Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture to extend contract term through June 30, 2018 to provide on-call weed abatement services at WCA owned properties.

BACKGROUND: This amendment will extend the interagency contract term to align the performance period with the fiscal year budget calendar; thus, extending what had been a calendar year December to December contract by an additional 6-month term to cover the full Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget year.

The Duck Farm property requires periodic and ongoing weed abatement control to eradicate invasive weeds and deplete the seed bank in the soil from years of operation as a commercial duck farm. Between 2012 and 2014 the site saw an inundation of the invasive weed Russian thistle (Tumbleweed). Control methods to eradicate this and other invasive were not effective utilizing the private contractor at the time and the cost to manage the invasive plants became an operational burden.

To address the situation, in late 2014 staff engaged the advice of a rangeland and restoration specialist, Chris McDonald PhD, Natural Resources Advisor with University of California Cooperative Extension on methods to better control the invasive weeds and deplete the soil weed seed bank. Several discussions and a site visit was conducted. It was recommended that a different control approach and vendor be considered. Staff reviewed the suggestions and the site with Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture and with Board approval entered an interagency agreement with LA County Department of Agriculture in December 2014.

Since utilizing LA County Department of Agriculture in 2014 the site has seen minimal regrowth of invasive that are continually monitored and addressed early by County staff thus effectively managing the site and limiting future weed seed releases. Additionally, WCA properties require on-call weed abatement services primarily for annual fire clearance compliance that can be serviced by this contract as needed; though, WCA historically utilizes the services of at risk youth corps and LA County Fire Crews, and others as needed, for this activity, as well as, to supplement the work performed under this contract.

FISCAL INFORMATION: Contract is funded under the category of General Operational Expenses up to an amount not to exceed the Fiscal Year approved budget limits for Weed Abatement.

June 26, 2017 – Item 13

RESOLUTION 2017-22

RESOLUTION OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY TO APPROVE A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ON-CALL WEED ABATEMENT SERVICES.

WHEREAS, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has been established to facilitate joint projects between the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Los Angeles County Flood Control District; and

WHEREAS, The Watershed Conservation Authority has been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects in both the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers watershed; and

WHEREAS, this action approves a contract extension with Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture to conduct weed abatement at the WCA properties; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Therefore be it resolved that the WCA hereby:

1. **FINDS** that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the WCA.
2. **FINDS** that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. **ADOPTS** the staff report dated June 26, 2017.
4. **APPROVES** a contract extension with Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture for a contract value not to exceed the annual fiscal year budget approved for weed abatement services through June 30, 2018.

~ End of Resolution ~

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Motion: _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Resolution 2017-XX

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
On June 26, 2017

M. Janet Chin, Governing Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
David Edsall, Deputy Attorney General