



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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MEETING DATE: APRIL 4, 2017

ITEM NUMBER: **NB-1**

**SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR FAIRVIEW PARK MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND BIOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**DATE: MARCH 23, 2017**

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTATION BY: RAJA SETHURAMAN, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BALTAZAR MEJIA, CITY ENGINEER, (714) 754-5291**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Award a contract to Endemic Environmental Services, Inc., P.O. Box 2363, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, in an amount not to exceed \$397,640.00 for professional services for biological, maintenance, and management of Fairview Park.
2. Authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to execute the Professional Services Agreement.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Costa Mesa has completed four years of native habitat maintenance and monitoring for the Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project in the lower northern portion of the park. Project elements include approximately 17 acres of native habitat plantings, irrigation, wetland ponds, and multipurpose trails. The habitat includes coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, mulefat, and wetland vegetation. The maintenance and monitoring period for the establishment of the native habitat began in December 2012. Consultant services are needed for Year Five of biological reporting and an additional year for the 3-acre grassland and oak tree habitat. In addition, there is a need for an on-site Project Manager to monitor park activities and to protect native habitat. Consultant services will be used to fill this need in the interim, while recruitment for a full time Fairview Park Administrator position is completed.

## **ANALYSIS:**

In coordination with staff from various departments in the City, a scope of work for Fairview Park services was developed, and a Request for Proposals (RFP's) was issued to qualified consultants. The scope of work under this contract requires that the selected consultant provide the following services:

1. Quarterly Biological reports-hardcopy and electronic quarterly photographic records for the 17-acre Fairview Park Wetlands site and final year-five Biological reports-hardcopy and electronic.
2. Quarterly Biological reports-hardcopy and electronic quarterly photographic records for the 3-acre grassland and oak tree restoration site, second year of contract.

3. On-site project manager, twenty (20) hours per week, monitoring Fairview Park for maintenance needs, vandalism, non-native plant issues in restoration areas, trespassing in restoration areas, six acre-wetlands and channel observation for issues with interrupted water flow, pump station functionality and non-native invasive species. Submit monthly reports.
4. Provide maintenance services for 3-acres of grasslands and oak trees and 2-acres of southern tarplant.
5. Up to Ten (10) hours per week implementing the Fairview Park Master Plan through grant writing, mitigation credits, and partnerships. Submit monthly reports.
6. Cowbird trapping program per United States Fish and Wildlife requirements for the endangered least bell's vireo.
7. Provide quarterly maintenance services for the wetland ponds, and channels. Clear ponds of excess cattails, bulrush and algae from the water surface and pond banks. Clear pond channel banks and maintenance paths of non-native habitat and excess willows.
8. Conduct four seasonal tours of Fairview Park open to the public and local schools. Bird nesting season tour, vernal pool tour, wetland and riparian habitat tour, Fairview Park history band informational tour.
9. Conduct as-needed environmental studies and bird nesting surveys over the two-year term of the contract.
10. Develop a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program (Optional).
11. Consultation with City staff on a regular basis.

In response to the City's RFP's, three proposals were received on December 29, 2016 (Attachment 1). A panel of City staff carefully reviewed and ranked the proposals and found them well qualified to perform the required professional services. Proposals were reviewed for compliance with the City's Request for Proposals; project understanding and scope of work; related experience; experience of project team; and associated issues. During the evaluation process, Endemic presented their firm as having a thorough understanding of the project; and demonstrated substantial experience and technical ability to perform the outlined scope of work.

Endemic has been the biologist for Phase I and Phase II of the Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project since 2009. After five years, Phase I native habitat successfully met the restoration criteria and has been accepted by the regulatory agencies. Phase II is in the fifth year of the native habitat maintenance and monitoring program. Endemic performed the cowbird trapping program last nesting season as well as environmental technical studies for the past five years.

### **Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS):**

The success of the constructed wetlands and riparian habitat has increased the population of birds at the park which includes nesting of threatened and endangered species like the California Gnatcatcher and Least Bell's Vireo. As a result of this, a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was included in the RFP's for this project.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service notes that "The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program was created by The Institute for Bird Populations in 1989 to assess and monitor the population of over 150 species of North American birds to provide critical conservation and management information." The proposed MAPS Program for Fairview Park will follow the established protocol for the national MAPS Program.

This is not a mandatory program, but can be used as a great resource to engage the public with opportunities to get involved, as well as to construct new habitats designed to attract new species or increase the population of the migratory birds that now nest at Fairview Park. Should City Council approve adding this program to the contract, it would be the only coastal MAPS station in Orange County.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The City Council may elect to add the MAPS program from the Optional Services to the contract for one (an increase of \$30,000) or two (an increase of \$60,000) years. Should City Council approve adding the MAPS program to the contract, staff will revise the agreement to reflect this change.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

Funding for this agreement is available from existing allocations for Fairview Park from the Capital Improvements Fund. If this agreement is approved, a Purchase Requisition will be prepared to encumber the funds.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the Professional Services Agreement (Attachment 2) as to content and form. Staff will work with the City Attorney to revise the Professional Services Agreement if any of the optional services are approved by the City Council.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is recommended that the City Council award the Fairview Park Maintenance Management and Biological services contract to Endemic Environmental Services, Inc. in the amount of \$397,640.00.

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**RAJA SETHURAMAN**  
Public Services Director

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**BALTAZAR MEJIA**  
City Engineer

ATTACHMENTS:

- [1. Bid Matrix](#)
- [2. Professional Services Agreement](#)