

Memorandum

Date: October 21, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with Panorama Environmental, Inc. to be the El Granada Wildfire Resiliency Planning Consultant

Staff Recommendation

RCD staff recommends contracting with Panorama Environmental, Inc. (Panorama) for \$75,000 to assess wildfire risk to El Granada and affected communities, and to identify and scope an array of potential actions that would most effectively reduce those risks and build wildfire resiliency.

Background

The community of El Granada is located in unincorporated coastal San Mateo County within and adjacent to a CAL FIRE designated Very High Fire Severity Zone. Some stakeholders have expressed particular concern about highly flammable eucalyptus trees in residential areas (approximately 122 acres of eucalyptus) and in San Mateo County Quarry Park (approximately 314 acres of eucalyptus). The RCD has been funded by the County of San Mateo through Measure K funds to serve as contracting entity and project manager to hire a consultant that will complete background research and site investigations to (a) develop a site-specific understanding of wildfire scenarios for El Granada and the surrounding community and (b) scope a suite of actions that would most effectively reduce those risks including operational considerations, constraints and opportunities, methods, and detailed cost estimates. The array of actions may be implemented over the short- and long-term on both private and public lands as appropriate to reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire and will include a focus on eucalyptus management. The RCD will be working with partners including San Mateo County, CAL FIRE/ County Fire, and the Midcoast Community Council to help ensure that local expertise is incorporated and that the project meets goals and expectations of stakeholders.

A request for proposals was announced September 17, 2021. A virtual pre-proposal meeting was attended by seven consulting firms and two firms submitted proposals. The proposals were reviewed by RCD staff and project partners (San Mateo County Parks, San Mateo County Supervisor Horsley's office, CAL FIRE/County Fire, and Midcoast Community Council).

Applicants were scored based in each of the following categories:

- Experience successfully completing similar or comparable projects, including on time and on budget, as demonstrated by a list of completed projects and references. (up to 15 points)
- Budget consistent with proposed approach and work. (up to 15 points)
- Cost effectiveness. How much work is accomplished within the budget? (up to 15 points)
- Demonstrated familiarity with the project area, stakeholders, and community concerns. (up to 10 points)

- Project approach is sound and proposed work will thoroughly and effectively complete the Scope of Work described in the Request for Proposals. (up to 20 points)
- Qualifications of consultant(s) as demonstrated by proposal and confirmed in references. (up to 20 points)
- Clarity and quality of writing/ well written proposal. (0 to 5 points)

While both firms were acceptable to project partners, Panorama received higher scores in each category and overall and is therefore the unanimous recommendation of the review committee.