



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Planning Committee/Board of Directors  
**Title:** On-Call Environmental Compliance and Regulatory Permit Services  
**From:** Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** May 27, 2025

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**                      Approve              X              Review and Comment

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review and comment on proposed award of two professional services agreements with separate consultant firms for routine on-call environmental compliance and regulatory agency permit services

**SUMMARY:** In alignment with the District's Five Year Strategic Plan, the District is leveraging consultant firms to support environmental compliance for various routine District infrastructure and watershed projects. The proposed contracts will provide the District with environmental compliance and regulatory agency permitting services for projects requiring California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), environmental permitting, biological surveys, cultural resources assessments, hydrologic analysis and geomorphic monitoring. Environmental compliance support is necessary for the District to implement these various routine infrastructure and watershed maintenance projects which include upkeep of trails, upgrades to water distribution and storage infrastructure, and support of vegetation management for wildfire fuel reduction.

**DISCUSSION:** The current environmental compliance and regulatory agency permit services contract was awarded to ESA on July 2, 2019 and expires June 30, 2025. This contract was extended with four amendments which provided the District with much needed environmental agency and permitting resources for several watershed and infrastructure projects including the development of the Lagunitas Creek Flow Release Study and Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP), Permitting for the Emergency Intertie Project, Watershed Culvert Permit Package, Azalea Hill Trail environmental review, Pine Mountain Tunnel Replacement CEQA compliance, and other smaller CEQA analyses for water infrastructure projects.

District staff solicited proposals to continue these on-call environmental compliance and permitting services based on the projected capital program in the coming years. Environmental compliance support is necessary for the District to implement various infrastructure and watershed maintenance projects, including upkeep of trails, upgrades to water distribution infrastructure, and support of vegetation management for wildfire fuel reduction. These services include CEQA/NEPA documentation,

environmental permitting, monitoring for permit conditions, biological surveys, cultural resources assessments, hydrologic analysis, and geomorphic monitoring. In the spring of 2025, the District issued a Request for Proposals to five San Francisco Bay Area firms that were identified as having sufficient in-house expertise to address all of the components of the District's environmental services scope of work. The five firms included, Environmental Science Associates (ESA), Panorama Environmental & Stillwater Science collaborative (Panorama), ICF, Kleinfelder, and Montrose Environmental & Sequoia Ecological Consulting Inc. collaborative (Montrose).

District staff established a review committee and evaluated the proposals followed by conducting interviews with all five consulting firms during the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Following the interview process, staff identified that both ESA & Panorama had a comprehensive understanding of the work the District was seeking and provided experienced teams to meet those needs. ESA has been providing environmental consulting services in the Bay Area since 1969 and has worked on numerous District projects in the past, including the most recent environmental on-call contract. ESA's core service area is CEQA/NEPA documentation, permitting, monitoring, environmental hydrology, and sustainability services. Panorama has been providing consulting services in the Bay Area since 2011. Panorama has worked on numerous District projects in the past, including the Peacock Gap Recycled Water Pipeline Feasibility Study, Ross Reservoir Landslide Repair Project and the District's Biodiversity Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP). Panorama specializes in CEQA/NEPA documentation, resource surveys and monitoring, data collection and research, wetland delineation and habitat mitigation and has many local jurisdictional on-call contracts, such as one with the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority. In addition, Panorama is partnering with Stillwater Science for this contract, and Stillwater Science brings a breadth of fisheries expertise and permitting experience.

Each proposed contract will be for a not-to-exceed amount of \$250,000, for a total authorized amount of \$500,000 for both contracts. Direct funding encumbrances are not required for either contract, as work performed will be funded by specific projects or operation fund centers, previously included in the District's adopted budget, which will utilize these services. Having two separate contracts to utilize will ensure that staff have an environmental firm available to provide environmental assistance as needed over the next three years.

Staff recommend the Board to review and comment on this item for proposed future contract award.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funding for these contracts will come from budgeted capital projects or operation fund centers, on an as-needed basis, that require these services.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.