

## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors

**Title:** Approve Wildland Fire Services Contract

**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources

**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

Meeting Date: March 19, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: X Action Information Review and Refer

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt a resolution to approve a three-year 'Wildland Fire Services' General Services Agreement (GSA) contract with Biswell Forestry LLC.

**SUMMARY:** On February 09, 2024, the District released a notice inviting bidders to submit proposals for a three-year wildland fire services contract. The District received two (2) bids on February 27th and Biswell Forestry LLC was identified as the lowest qualified bidder. Staff is recommending that the Board approve the Resolution, which awards Contract No. 2018 to Biswell Forestry LLC in the amount of \$825,000 for a three-year Wildland Fire Services contract with a District option to extend services in one year increments for up to an additional two-years. Staff is also requesting that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute the contract and any and all future amendments to this contract, which he deems necessary, so long as they do not exceed 10% in total of the contract amount.

**DISCUSSION:** The District is currently in year five of implementation of the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) that was adopted in 2019. During the course of conducting the BFFIP-driven vegetation Management Actions, the District has generated vegetation piles on the watershed that need to be burned off to achieve the vegetation management goals. Staff will utilize this three year 'Wildland Fire Services' contract to provide certified wildland fire contractor crews with fire equipment necessary to help address the un-burned vegetation piles, as well as provide operational assistance for prescribed burn site preparation and post fire mop up operations.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

The District has certified a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) which was adopted in 2019 and which covers all work being proposed under the new 'Wildland Fire Services' contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total project costs to perform the Wildland Fire Services over three years, during FY24, FY25 & FY26, will be \$825,000. To cover the first year's expense, during FY24, \$275,000.00 is currently budgeted within A1E07, Fund 20 -FY23 Capital, 'Green Infrastructure' (BFFIP) Contractors (D24005) and will be supplemented by grant funding as it is secured.

## ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed resolution approving CN#2018 for Wildland Fire Services

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed	Than fins	A. Harante.
	Shaun Horne Watershed Resources	Ben Horenstein General Manager
	Director	S