



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement with Panorama Environmental for Environmental Support Services of the Atmospheric River Capture Project
From: Paul Sellier, Water Resources Director
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: X Action Information

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Amendment No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement No. 6433, with Panorama Environmental, Inc. for additional archaeological investigations for an amount not to exceed \$179,829, increasing the total contract amount to \$1,429,638; and Authorize the General Manager to execute the Contract amendment

SUMMARY: On June 3, 2025, the Board of Directors approved a Professional Services Agreement with Panorama Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$1,249,809 to provide environmental review and permitting in support of the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project. Amendment No. 1 provides services for additional archaeological investigation required by the Project.

DISCUSSION: In support of the Atmospheric River Capture (ARC) Project, Panorama Environmental was engaged by the District to provide environmental review and permitting in the summer of 2025. The original scope of work included preparation of environmental documentation, biological and cultural resource surveys, and agency consultation to support compliance with CEQA and other regulatory requirements. As environmental review has progressed, initial archaeological investigations have identified several areas adjacent to the Project alignment that have a high potential for subsurface Native American cultural deposits.

To comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), expanded archaeological investigation may be required to determine whether cultural resources are present within the Project footprint including along the proposed pipeline alignment and pump station site. The services included in the amendment include preparation of a cultural resources testing and monitoring plan, field testing at Project locations near identified culturally sensitive areas, and consultation of the investigation and its results with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR). Staff are seeking authorization in advance for the amendment to ensure the environmental process can continue without delay.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Environmental review for the ARC Project is being conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Initial Study (IS) has been completed and Notice of Preparation (NOP) is set for publication on March 13 with comments accepted until April 13. Additionally, community scoping meetings have been set as follows:

- Wednesday, March 25 | 6:00–7:00 PM at the Novato Recreation Center - 950 7th Street, Novato and
- Thursday, March 26 | 5:30–6:30 PM San Ramon Elementary School, Multipurpose Room - 45 San Ramon Way, Novato.

FISCAL IMPACT: The original Professional Services Agreement with Panorama Environmental was approved in the amount of \$1,249,809. Amendment No. 1 will increase the contract amount by \$179,829, resulting in a revised total contract amount of \$1,429,638. Funding for this work is included within the ARC Project design budget in the adopted Capital Improvement Program and FY26 & FY27 budgets.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed additional Panorama Scope of Work and Schedule
2. Fee Estimate

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Water Resources	 <hr/> Paul Sellier Water Resources Director	 <hr/> Ben Horenstein General Manager