



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 28, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Facilities Planning and Development Division, Airport Department

SUBJECT: Goleta Slough Mouth Biological Assessment Contract

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Approve and authorize the Airport Director to execute a contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc., for biological services associated with the maintenance of the Goleta Slough Mouth in an amount not to exceed \$233,938, and authorize the Airport Director to approve expenditures up to \$23,394 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work; and
- B. Increase appropriations by \$257,332 in the Airport Operating Fund from available reserves for the contract and change order authorization.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Goleta Slough Mouth has been closed since March 2013. The Goleta Slough mouth naturally closes with beach sand periodically. Prior to 2012, if the mouth stayed closed for two weeks the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (Flood Control) would cut a channel in the sand to allow water to flow in and out of the Slough with the tide. The Flood Control permit to maintain the Slough mouth has since expired and due to objections raised by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Flood Control is no longer pursuing permits to open the Slough mouth.

As a consequence, this spring, the water fowl population in the Goleta Slough grew to several times higher than historic rates (most specifically near the end of Runways 15L/R). This significantly increased the risk of aircraft-bird strike. Also, due to the standing water in the Slough, the mosquito population has grown substantially posing a risk to public health.

The Airport Department is now working towards obtaining the necessary permits to assume Slough mouth management in partnership with Flood Control.

Consultant Selection

In June 2013, the Airport solicited a Request for Qualifications for biological services from biological consulting firms with local wetland experience. Two firms provided statements of qualifications. Both firms were interviewed by Airport Staff and a Goleta Slough Management Committee representative. The two firms were ranked based on qualifications, experience, and ability to perform the work required. Rincon Consultants, Inc. was selected as the firm that had the best experience for this project.

Funding

There are sufficient funds in Airport reserves above Policy to cover the cost of this project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This contract will support the design of a Slough mouth maintenance program that will minimize adverse affects to steelhead trout, tidewater goby, and other Slough species while managing threats presented by wildlife, mosquitoes, and flood waters to existing infrastructure.

PREPARED BY: Andrew Bermond, AICP, Project Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Hazel Johns, Acting Airport Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office