



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 9, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Facility Planning and Development Division, Airport Department

**SUBJECT:** Contract With URS Corporation For The Airport Native Plant Nursery

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve and authorize the Airport Director to execute a City service contract, subject to approval of the form of the contract by the City Attorney, with URS Corporation (URS), a Nevada Corporation, in an amount not to exceed \$84,202 for services associated with the Native Plant Nursery, and authorize the Airport Director to approve expenditures up to \$8,420 for extra services that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background:

In 2003, City Council approved the construction of the Airfield Safety Projects which involved the relocation of the main runway approximately 700 feet to the west in order to establish 1,000 foot overrun safety areas at both ends of the runway. This necessitated the relocation of Tecolotito and Carneros Creeks in the Goleta Slough. Approximately 30 acres of habitat restoration was required as mitigation for this impact as a condition of the Coastal Development Permit for the project. The permit also required that the habitat restoration sites be maintained and monitored for seven years and that the sites achieve specified native plant coverage goals.

In order to meet permit criteria, a Native Plant Nursery was established by URS Corporation and Growing Solutions Restoration Education Institute on Airport property in 2006. Seeds were collected from the Goleta Slough and grown in the Native Plant Nursery until they were fit for planting. This was done to minimize the financial cost of the plants as well as to maintain genetic purity of native plant species.

#### Year Four Program:

Currently in the fourth year of the seven-year maintenance period, the Airport needs to continue the operation of the Native Plant Nursery to provide replacement plantings.

These replacement plantings are necessary to ensure permit criteria satisfaction and the sustained ecological health of the habitat restoration areas.

In 2009, all of the habitat restoration sites were on target for meeting permit performance criteria. Because of the success of these restoration sites, the Airport Department was able to negotiate an approximate \$52,500 (38%) reduction in the cost of work for the fourth year of monitoring compared to the previous Native Plant Nursery contract.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Funds for this contract are available in the Airport Department operational budget.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

This contract will further the City's Sustainable Santa Barbara Program by providing the Santa Barbara Airport with native replacement plants and seeds for its various habitat restoration projects in the Goleta Slough and associated creeks. This resource would otherwise be purchased and transported from off-site in order to satisfy Coastal Development Permit criteria.

**PREPARED BY:** Andrew Bermond, Associate Planner

**SUBMITTED BY:** Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office