



Memorandum

Date: 1/5/21

To: Board of Directors

From: Dylan Skybrook

Re: Recommendation to contract with Tukman Geospatial for mapping and GIS analysis services to produce a suite of deliverables related to wildfire risk mapping as a part of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network's Landscape Database and Vegetation Mapping Project in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties.

The Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network (SCMSN) Manager, Dylan Skybrook, recommends contracting with Tukman Geospatial for two contracts, one for Santa Cruz County for an amount not to exceed \$144,241.00, and one for Santa Clara County for an amount not to exceed \$310,534.00.

These contracts will be to create a Wildfire Risk Index for Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. It is a part of the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network's larger Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project. The Wildfire Risk Index has been requested by and will be paid for by a grant from Cal Fire. It will help Cal Fire and others prioritize forest health projects to maximize prevention of catastrophic wildfire.

In addition to fire prevention planning, the data layers produced for this project will also support critical local planning applications such as flood modelling, prioritization of open space acquisitions, assessment of restoration priorities, climate change planning, and public policy development. They also will supply the preliminary data sets required for the development of county wide fine-scale vegetation and topology datasets similar to those created for Sonoma County (see www.sonomnavegmap.org), and in the process of being created for Marin and San Mateo Counties.

The Public Contract Bidding, Vendor and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy adopted by this Board of Directors on March 20, 2014 requires solicitation of formal advertised bids for expenditures exceeding \$50,000. The policy allows exceptions to standard purchasing procedures in some circumstances, including when "services are of a unique type, are of a proprietary nature, or are otherwise of such a required and specific design or construction, or are specifically necessary for purposes of maintaining cost effective system consistency, so as to be available from only one source."



The work proposed meets this criterion because:

- Tukman Geospatial is currently offering GIS and mapping services to the SCMSN for the Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project. To efficiently complete the project with the least amount of expense it makes sense to continue the working relationship. Switching to another contractor would result in complication and delays, and thus increased expenses.
- Tukman Geospatial has worked on the vegetation mapping projects in Sonoma, Marin, and San Mateo Counties. These projects and the SCMSN's Santa Cruz and Santa Clara County projects are somewhat unique. They are considered cutting edge and innovative in the industry and there is interest in them at a national-scale. The expertise and experience of Tukman Geospatial is such that continuing to work them as a GIS and mapping services contractor is the best course of action for the project.

Note: The Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project is a project of the SCMSN. The San Mateo Resource Conservation District acts as fiscal agent for the SCMSN. Because the SCMSN covers San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District Board, as fiscal agent, sometimes approves contracts, grants, and the like, for SCMSN projects that lie outside the San Mateo Resource Conservation District's boundaries. The Board has previously approved grants and contracts for the Vegetation Mapping and Landscape Database Project.