



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

LONG RANGE PLANNING

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November 21, 2014

To: El Dorado County Planning Commission

From: David Defanti, Assistant Director

Subject: Process Approaches for Oak Woodland Management Plan

Purpose

Staff has prepared approaches A, B and C (Reference Attachment 7B – Process Approach Memo) to complete the project description and environmental review of the existing Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP). Approach A can be performed within the existing Agreement with Dudek with only a potential minor amendment to the Scope of Work necessary to revise the public outreach task. Approaches B and C will require a new Agreement with Dudek.

Staff recommends the Board review the three (3) proposed approaches and select Approach A. If Approach B or C is selected, staff recommends the Board authorize the Chair to sign a new Agreement with Dudek in the amount shown for the selected Approach in Attachment 7B contingent upon approval by County Counsel and Risk Management.

The new Agreement or Amendment will provide the expertise and assistance necessary to complete the project description and environmental review of the OWMP.

Background

The court decision overturning the OWMP has prompted the County to address, at a minimum, the implementation of certain oak tree policies in the General Plan. These policies are interrelated with several other biological policies. After reviewing options presented on September 24, 2012, the Board determined that all the related biological policies should be reviewed and considered for revisions to ensure that the goals and objectives of the General Plan can be achieved.

On March 11, 2014 the Board approved and authorized the Chair to sign Agreement 425-S1411 with an outside consulting firm, Dudek, for a term of three (3) years to proceed with a program to review and potentially amend several General Plan policies related to biological resources.

On July 28, 2014, the Board received information on the historical work completed to date on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) and OWMP in the Background Memo (Attachment 5B) and a set of draft options in the Policy Options Memo (Attachment 5C) for Board consideration to determine next steps. The Policy Options Memo outlined four (4) broad policy approaches available to the County moving forward. The Policy Options Memo included an analysis of each potential option, including the pros and cons, public involvement opportunities and approaches, rough timelines for completing the process, and examples of how policies would be implemented for several hypothetical development scenarios.

On October 7, 2014, the Board conducted a workshop to:

- 1) Follow up on the July 28, 2014 discussion regarding the history and status of the County biological policies, as outlined in the Background Memo; and,
- 2) Continue discussing the broad policy approaches presented in the Policy Options Memo.

After a presentation by staff and Dudek, and comments received by the public, two (2) motions were made by Supervisor Santiago, seconded by Supervisor Mikulaco and passed by a 4-1 vote.

Motion one (1) directed staff to begin the process of moving forward with Policy Option 3: The Mitigation/Conservation Approach in the Policy Options Memo. Each of the three (3) Approaches discussed in Attachment 7B will begin the process of moving forward with Policy Option 3.

Motion two (2) directed staff to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the existing OWMP, and return to the Board on November 17, 2014, with a Scope of Work and budget. This Agenda item presents three (3) approaches for addressing the Board direction regarding Motion two (2).

Discussion

Staff has prepared three (3) processing approaches that will accomplish the Board's objective to re-establish the OWMP (Attachment 7B). Approach A can be performed within the existing Agreement with Dudek; a minor amendment to the Scope of Work to revise the public outreach task may be required. Approaches B and C will require a new Agreement with Dudek and allocation of additional funding.

The purpose of today's meeting is to provide the Board with the estimated timing and cost associated with each of the separate approaches, and to identify the Board's preferred approach. Staff recommends the Board select Approach A which can be performed within the existing Agreement with Dudek with only a potential minor amendment to the Scope of Work necessary to revise the public outreach task. If Approach B or C is selected, staff recommends the Board authorize the Chair to sign a new Agreement with Dudek in the amount shown for the selected Approach in Attachment 7B.

Reason for Recommendation

Per Board direction on October 7, 2014, staff has discussed the requirements needed to prepare an EIR on the existing OWMP with Dudek, and has prepared a Scope of Work and budget (Attachment 7C). Approach A is the most cost effective and conservative approach.

Recommendation

Community Development Agency, Long Range Planning Division, recommending the Board review three (3) potential processing approaches to prepare an Environmental Impact Report to evaluate the existing Oak Woodland Management Plan, and recommending the Board select Approach A which can be performed within the existing Agreement with Dudek with only a potential minor amendment to the Scope of Work necessary to revise the public outreach task. If Approach B or C is selected, staff recommends the Board authorize the Chair to sign a new Agreement with Dudek in the amount shown for the selected Approach in Attachment 7B contingent upon approval by County Counsel and Risk Management.

Clerk of the Board Follow up actions

- 1) Upon approval by County Counsel and Risk Management, Clerk of the Board to obtain the Chair's signature on two (2) originals of a new Agreement for Services or an Amendment to the existing Agreement with Dudek; and,
- 2) Clerk of the Board will return one (1) fully-executed original of the Agreement or Amendment to the Long Range Planning Division for further processing.

Contact

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Concurrences

Contingent upon review and approval of the Agreement by County Counsel and Risk Management.