AGENDA ITEM DEVELOPMENT REPORT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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Date: 04/25/2011  
Agenda Date: 05/03/2011

AIDR No.: 3316

Originating Department: Air Quality and Environmental Management

Contact/Ext: Lewis Wallenmeyer/1600

Issue: AMENDMENT

Subject/Title:

Amendment to Butterfly Monitoring and Inventories

Recommended Action:

That the Board of County Commissioners approve Amendment No. 1 to the contract with Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc (Pinyon) for Butterfly Monitoring and Inventory; and authorize the Chief Financial Officer or his designee to sign the Amendment No. 1; or take other action as appropriate.

Summary:

On January 19, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners approved the award of the contract Request for Proposals (RFP) 601542-09, to Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc. Four firms responded to the RFP, and Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc (Pinyon) was selected and a contract in the amount of $85,700.00 was issued on January 19, 2010. The Desert Conservation Program (DCP) and Pinyon have identified an opportunity to amend this contract to expand the coverage of the original project area in order to enhance the project. The amendment is in the amount of $11,866.00.

This project is being implemented as part of the implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), which requires Clark County to expend funds for the purposes of species and habitat conservation to offset the effects of development. The funds necessary to pay for the actions and activities described in this contract come from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA). No general funds will be used.

The purpose of the contract is to contribute to understanding the range, distribution and temporal changes associated with two rare, endemic butterfly species within the U.S. Forest Service’s Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, in Clark County, Nevada. Both species are covered under the current MSHCP. To achieve this, the contractor has developed and implemented a strategy to estimate butterfly relative abundance for the Mount Charleston blue butterfly (Plebejus [Icaricia] shasta charlestonensis) and the Spring Mountains checkerspot (Chlosyne acastus robusta), and has been monitoring these species at specific sites. In addition, the contractor is assessing and mapping potential butterfly habitat within the target areas.
Pinyon staff have identified additional potential habitat adjacent to the target areas addressed in the current contract. A notable number of Mount Charleston blue butterflies were observed in the current survey area in 2010. Many were near the boundary of the survey area and other potential habitat was noted (outside the current survey area). An expansion of both survey areas is being requested to enhance the possibility of target species observation.

The changes may likely result in increased knowledge of habitat and species distribution of both butterflies near the current project area. The changes would increased knowledge of two sensitive species that have a potential of obtaining federal protection. Because we are currently contracting with Pinyon to perform butterfly surveys, there is a unique opportunity to add these additional areas to the monitoring areas already being covered. Including these activities now, when the County has qualified surveyors in the area, it is more cost effective than attempting to provide a contract at a future date. Increasing the area being monitored will increase knowledge of two sensitive species that are on the forefront of obtaining potential federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The DCP has determined that there is sufficient reason to expand the scope of work and provide additional funds to complete this work for the two rare butterflies. The DCP recommends amending the existing contract.

DONALD G. BURNETTE
County Manager