

## **Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority**

**Date:** November 2, 2023

**To:** Governing Board Members

**From:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**Subject:** Item 09: Consideration of a resolution approving a contract budget increase to Tidal Influence for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands

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**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) approve a contract budget increase to Tidal Influence for Habitat Restoration and Community Stewardship Programming Services (LCWA22501) to support an expanded level of effort for completion of the AES Year 1 workplan by \$52,053 total.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Tidal Influence is currently contracted to implement a Habitat Restoration Program at Zedler Marsh to supplement current restoration efforts and will utilize community members and volunteer groups to assist with implementation of the restoration program whenever feasible. The 4 main activities of the contract are:

- 1) Expansion of mulefat scrub and willow scrub habitat improvements at Zedler Marsh to support least Bell's vireo foraging and breeding habitat.
- 2) Continued enhancement of high marsh habitat at Zedler Marsh in locations that have been challenging to restore due to poor soil conditions or other constraining factors.
- 3) Establishment of a population of the rare Lewis' Evening Primrose that is currently found on the LCWA's south area property
- 4) Incorporation of community-based programs into the implementation of activities 1-3.

Tidal Influence was originally contracted to perform the above services for a not to exceed amount of \$100,000. A budget increase of \$52,053 for the duration of the contract through April 30, 2024, will provide funds to support workplan coordination and oversight with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach and stewardship programs led by Los Cerritos Land Trust. Activities include removal/disposal and amendments of highly degraded soils, additional public programs, and vegetation management in the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands

**BACKGROUND:** On May 5, 2022, the LCWA Board authorized the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AES Redondo Beach, LLC to accept funds from their Voluntary Environmental Benefits Grants Program in the amount of \$1,000,000 (Resolution 2022-04). The plan called for AES to grant \$1,000,000 to the LCWA over two years, and \$400,000 was granted for Year One (1).

On August 17, 2022, the LCWA Board authorized the Executive Officer to negotiate and award one or more contracts solicited from a Request for Proposals for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands (Resolution 2022-11). The RFP stated that all proposed Program activities be completed by March 30, 2024, for use of AES's Coastal Enhancement Grant fund. Each Program award was for an amount not exceed \$100,000.

Three contracts were awarded:

- 1) Tidal Influence for habitat restoration and community stewardship programming services,
- 2) Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust for youth field trips to the wetlands, and
- 3) Conservation Corps of Long Beach for workforce development in wetlands restoration.

Tidal Influence was founded with a mission of conserving and restoring all of Los Cerritos Wetlands and this consultant has been dedicated to building partnerships and implementing projects since 2009. The team is led by a well-qualified Principal and a staff with years of experience conducting projects and programs in the Los Cerritos Wetlands and is qualified to work collaboratively to meet all the LCWA requirements in the RFP.

**FISCAL:** After funding of all contracts solicited from the RFP for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and other restoration planning activities under the AES Year 1 grant award, additional unallocated funding was available to increase this contract with Tidal Influence and the other two contracts to add additional wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming activities. An additional \$30,000 was provided to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust, and an additional \$12,000 was provided to the Conservation Corp of Long Beach. Both contracts remain under \$100,000 total each.

Tidal Influence contract is recommended increase by \$52,053 for the duration of the contract through April 30, 2024, from \$100,000 to \$152,053. Contractor cost is inclusive of all materials, supplies, and related project administration. See Exhibit A.

***[Include Exhibit A, Tidal Influence Contract LCWA 22501, Showing the line Item tasks changes – so Tasks #1 & #4 changes in budget is shown.]***