

Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Title:

Watershed Assessments and Prioritization for Denver Water's Water Collection System

Meeting Date: 2/11/2009

Contract/Proposal 12158A

Action by Consent

Action

Information

The purpose of this contract is to develop specific GIS maps that categorize the risks to Denver Water's watersheds from wildfire, so that we can prioritize projects for potential funding through the stimulus package. Denver Water proposes contracting with JW Associates Inc., a SMWBE, for applying the watershed assessment and prioritization methodology to its water collection system watersheds. Denver Water would like to phase the contract by completing the Blue River and Upper Colorado watershed assessments first. Phase II of the contract will concentrate on St. Vrain watershed (Gross Reservoir) and the Upper South Platte and Headwaters of the South Platte watersheds. The total cost of the contract is \$117,266. The Phase I cost is \$56,756 for the Blue River and Upper Colorado watersheds. The Phase II cost is \$60,510; however, it is expected that this cost will be reduced by identifying partners and decreasing the area of analysis. The contract would run through January of 2010. The 2009 Budget includes funds for this work under MPC 4AS001.

In July of 2008, the Board was presented a white paper on developing a phased Watershed Management Plan. The first phase goal is to develop and implement actions within high fire priority watersheds to protect Denver Water's water collection system and watershed function from the potential impacts of a catastrophic fire. The first objective is to develop watershed wildfire protection plans to reduce wildfire risk within critical high fire risk areas. Task A-1 of this objective identifies the need to develop a methodology for a resource assessment of the watershed using existing data. The Front Range Watershed Protection Working Group, which includes a partnership of water providers; federal, state and local agencies, and environmental groups, has developed an acceptable methodology for prioritizing watersheds susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. The next task is to apply this methodology to Denver Water's four watersheds. This information will be used to identify measures to protect against and reduce the adverse effects of post-wildfire hydrologic changes, including flooding, erosion, deposition and introduction of potential contaminants.

The attached sheet provides an update of the Watershed Management Plan process and a list of the Colorado Forest Health initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the contract for watershed assessments and prioritization for Denver Water's water collection system in the amount of \$117, 266.

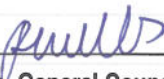
Approvals:



David Little, Director Planning



Brian Good, Director Operations/Maintenance



Patricia L. Wells, General Counsel


Manager Approval: