

Denver Board of Water Commissioners

Title:

Four-Mile Creek Fen Rehabilitation Project

Meeting Date: 8/12/2009

Contract/Proposal 12493A

- Action by Consent
- Action
- Information

In January of 2008, the Board was presented with information about a plan to restore the Four-Mile Creek Fen. Fens are rare groundwater-supported wetlands composed of peat soils. The historic Four-Mile Ranch, currently owned by Denver Water, once contained a fen and associated mineral soil wetlands which were drained by the construction of the Four-Mile Ditch. Johnson Environmental Consulting (JEC) developed a plan to fill the ditch in a manner to rehydrate and reestablish the dewatered fen and wetlands, which was approved by the Corps of Engineers in 2007. Restoration would reestablish a rare and valuable ecosystem and provide a wetland mitigation credit to Denver Water valued at up to \$8 million. Denver Water has a contract with the Colorado Department of Corrections to have the construction performed by inmates participating in the construction education program of the Buena Vista Correctional Facility. Once reestablished, the site would be turned over to a yet-to-be-determined agency for continued research and protection.

Denver Water proposes contracting with JEC for the services needed to complete the Fen Rehabilitation Project: construction inspection and monitoring, final design, and project coordination and management. The proposed JEC contract would include both full time construction inspection from October through 2010 and follow-up monitoring and associated coordination with the Corps of Engineers through 2014. JEC must demonstrate the long-term viability of the restored fen and associated mineral soil wetlands to allow Denver Water to receive the wetland mitigation credits from the Corps of Engineers. Funds for the total complete project have been anticipated in the 10-Year Capital Plan under MPC 1AL0018, and the 2009 budget has \$165,000 for this purpose. Of this 2009 project budget, \$59,534 is being requested for the JEC contract.

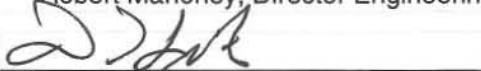
**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board approve the Contract with Johnson Environmental Consulting in the amount of \$234,056 for project activities from 2009 through 2014 for the completion of the Four-Mile Fen Rehabilitation Project.

Approvals:



Robert Mahoney, Director Engineering



David Little, Director Planning



Patricia L. Wells, General Counsel



Manager Approval:

Documents Attached:

File Attachment