

ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, ZONE 7

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ORIGINATING SECTION: Groundwater**CONTACT:** Tom Rooze/Carol Mahoney**AGENDA DATE:** June 17, 2020**SUBJECT:** Grant Project Overview and Contract for 2022 Update to Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan**SUMMARY:**

- As a part of sustainably managing the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) to provide a reliable water supply, the Zone 7 Water Agency ("Agency") provides groundwater basin oversight services that includes data collection, monitoring, modeling, permit administration and annual reporting. This proposed contract supports staff in administering a Proposition 68 (Prop 68) grant award that provides funding for technical assistance in updating the Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Alternative GSP) per the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014.
- In accordance with the Agency Purchasing Policy which allows procurement of professional services based on qualifications and experience (without a bidding process based on pricing), the selection of the consulting firm was done through a competitive procurement process. Request for Proposals were requested from nine firms with experience in groundwater management as determined through a formal procurement process in April 2019; all nine firms are on the list of eligible consultants approved by the Board.
- Three of the firms submitted proposals. Of those three, EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) was deemed to be the most qualified because of their comprehensive scope of work that clearly outlines Zone 7's needs and how they will be addressed, and their technical expertise and project experience of the project team. In March 2020, EKI was also selected to assist with Zone 7's 2020 Conjunctive Use Study and has provided satisfactory service to date.
- The proposed contract amount with EKI of \$545,700 is based on \$496,100, EKI's proposed cost for their work, plus a 10% contingency. The total grant project is expected to cost \$666,500 of which \$499,875 will be reimbursed by DWR as part of the grant agreement.
- Per grant requirements, a project overview is provided herein along with an explanation of grant tasks, consultant assistance, and costs.

GRANT PROJECT OVERVIEW

- In 2016, Zone 7 submitted the Alternative GSP for the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin, which the Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved in July 2019. A five-year update of the Alternative GSP is due January 1, 2022.

- From the comments received on the Alternative GSP, two stood out as significant, and will require assistance from an external consultant:
 - Extend the criteria of minimum thresholds developed for the Main Basin (e.g. historic low water levels) into the Fringe and Upland portions of the Basin (see Figure 1). This requires extending geologic cross sections and modifying and extending the existing model.
 - In addition, Zone 7 received two comment letters from The Nature Conservancy on the Alternative GSP, which recommended further evaluation of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems. At the time of Alternative GSP preparation, limited information was available on wetlands and vegetation associated with groundwater. Since then, DWR has provided the Natural Communities Commonly Associated with Groundwater (NCCAG) mapping, which is a useful tool to help in identifying potential groundwater dependent ecosystems; however, staff needs a specialize firm to assist in the evaluation.
- In November 2019 Staff submitted a detailed grant proposal for a DWR-administered Proposition 68 grant (available at <http://www.zone7water.com/library/groundwater>) for \$666,500, of which \$499,875 was to be reimbursed by the grant. DWR approved the grant proposal in April 2020 and in May entered into agreement with Zone 7 for the project.
- The DWR-approved workplan, summarized in the attached Table 1, addresses the DWR recommended actions for the Alternative GSP and the comment letters recommending additional analysis of GDEs.
- Portions of the project will require a highly qualified consultant with requisite knowledge and technical expertise not currently held by staff. Due to their experience with Proposition 68, the consultant will also assist staff on some non-technical portions of the project (administration, outreach, report preparation).
- Staff recommends authorizing the General Manager to negotiate, execute, and amend for time only a contract with EKI to complete the 2022 Five Year Update the Alternative GSP in an amount not to exceed \$546,000, which includes a 10% contingency.

FUNDING:

The contract with EKI is for \$546,000, including a 10% contingency. The total grant project is expected to cost \$666,500 of which \$499,875 will be reimbursed by DWR as part of the grant agreement. Funds are available from Fund 100 for the 25% minimum match.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

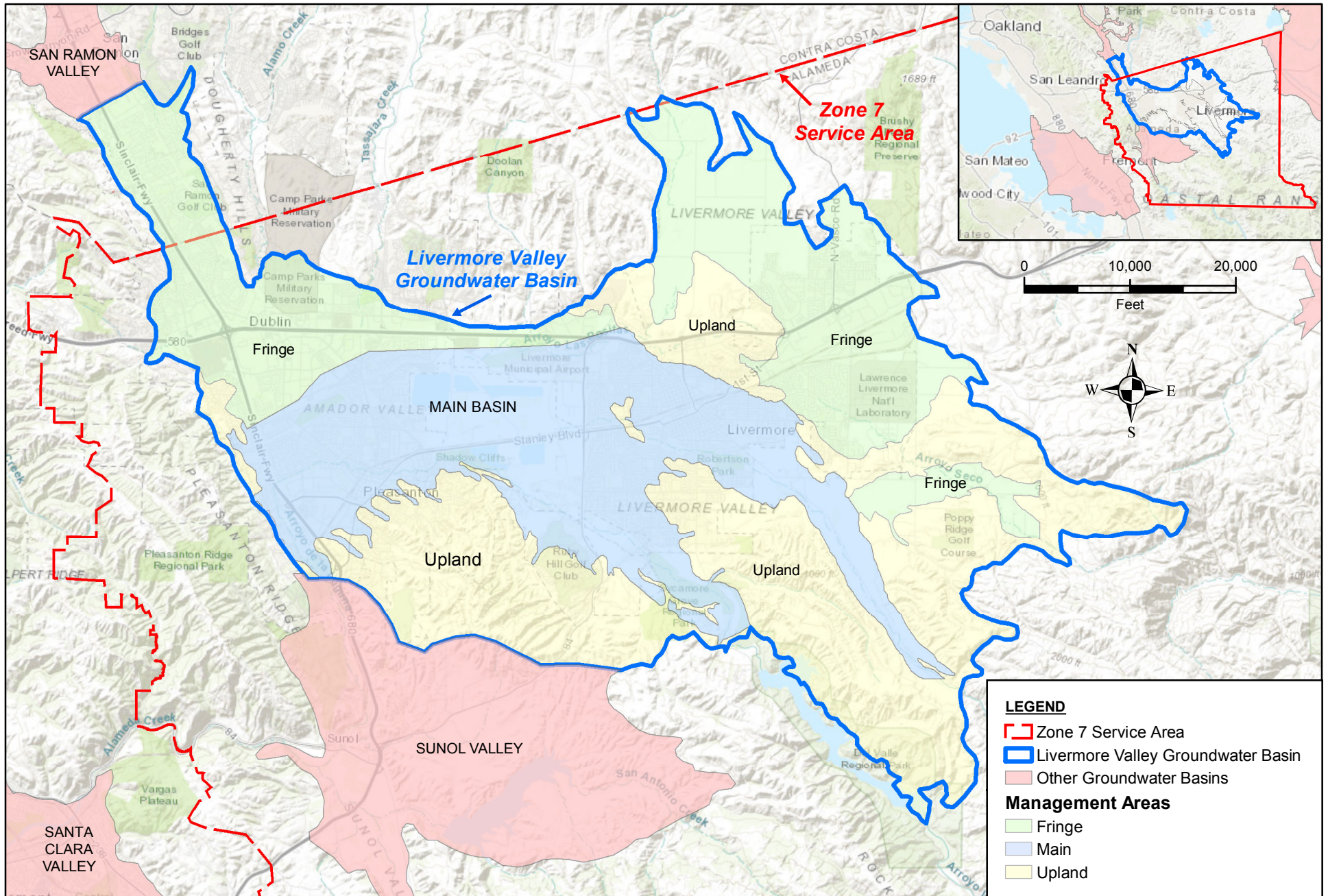
Adopt the attached Resolution

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Table 1: Grant Project Task Summary
2. Figure 1: Project Map – 2022 Five-Year Update of the Alternative GSP
3. Resolution

Table 1
 Grant Project Task Summary
 2022 Five Year Update of the Alternative GSP
 Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin

CATEGORY/TASK	DESCRIPTION
1. Grant Administration	Grant tracking/invoicing
2. Stakeholder Engagement/Outreach	Prepare an Outreach and Communications Plan, create a webpage, provide outreach to agencies, and inform/engage Stakeholders
3. Alternative GSP Update	Program Updates for the Alternative GSP
3.1. <i>Groundwater Level Program Update</i>	Address data gaps, especially in the Fringe and Upland Basins, and revise Historic Low maps
3.2. <i>Groundwater Storage Program Update</i>	Update and extend Zone 7's existing cross-section network and Zone 7's Areal Recharge Spreadsheet Model to include the Fringe and Upland Basins.
3.3. <i>Groundwater Quality Program Update</i>	Update TDS and Nitrate projections, evaluate the effectiveness of Zone 7's nutrient management strategies outlined in the 2005 Nutrient Management Plan, and review recent research and guidelines for other Constituents of Concern (e.g. PFAS).
3.4. <i>Land Subsidence Program Update</i>	Continue to evaluate InSAR for monitoring land subsidence over the entire basin.
3.5. <i>Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction/GDE Program Update</i>	Identify GDEs, assess groundwater needs for sustainability, and evaluate the need for new monitoring locations and protocols.
3.6. <i>Prepare Alternative GSP Update</i>	Prepare an outline, draft, and final report.



LEGEND

- Zone 7 Service Area
- Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin
- Other Groundwater Basins

Management Areas

- Fringe
- Main
- Upland



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY
 100 North Canyons Parkway
 Livermore, CA

Figure 1: Project Map- 2022 Five-Year Update of Alternative GSP, Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin

ZONE 7
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION NO.

INTRODUCED BY
SECONDED BY

Award of Contract for 2022 Update to Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan

WHEREAS, Zone 7 Water Agency is the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Livermore Valley Groundwater Basin (DWR Basin 2-010) in accordance with Water Code Water Code §10723 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District adopted an Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in accordance with Water Code Section §10733.6 on December 21, 2016 (Resolution No. 16-190): and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2019, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved Zone 7's Alternative GSP, and

WHEREAS, California Water Code § 10723, requires Alternative GSPs to be updated every five years, with the next one due by January 1, 2022, and

WHEREAS, DWR and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) provided recommendations for the next five-year update to the Alternative GSP; and

WHEREAS, Zone 7 submitted a grant proposal for Round 3 of the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Planning Grant Program that addresses recommendations by DWR and TNC and requested \$499,875 of grant funding; and

WHEREAS, Zone 7 entered into a grant agreement with Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the grant project in May 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Agency requires a highly qualified consultant with the requisite knowledge, skill, ability and expertise to provide the necessary services for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Zone 7 has used the Board-approved list of qualified firms in the procurement of professional services based on qualifications and experience; and

WHEREAS, EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) has been found to be well-qualified to assist with the 2022 Five Year Update to the Alternative GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Zone 7 Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Manager to negotiate, execute, and extend for time a contract with EKI to complete the 2022 Five Year Update to the Alternative GSP in an amount not to exceed \$545,700, which includes a ten percent contingency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Zone 7 Board of Directors hereby authorizes funding of this contract 100% from Fund 100 (Water Enterprise Fund).

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Zone 7 of the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District on June 17, 2020.

By _____
President, Board of Directors