

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve an Agreement with **McKenzie River Trust** for the acquisition and management of floodway properties affected by the Holiday Farm Fire from willing sellers.

Board Meeting Date: April 6, 2021

Project Name/Contract#: McKenzie River Trust Property Acquisition Partnership / 21-052-A

Primary Contact: Rod Price Ext. 7122

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$1,500,000 (not to exceed)

Additional \$ Previously Approved: NA

Invoices over last approval: NA

Percentage over last approval: NA%

Amount this Request: \$1,500,000

Resulting Cumulative Total: \$1,500,000

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Grant to Facilitate Property Acquisition

If applicable, basis for exemption: Exemption – EWEB Rule 6-0110 (d)

Term of Agreement: April 2021 – December 2026

Option to Renew? No

Approval for purchases “as needed” for the life of the contract No

Proposals/Bids Received (Range): NA

Selection Basis: Direct Negotiation

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

The Board is being asked to approve a new Agreement with McKenzie River Trust (MRT) to acquire and manage floodway properties on both sides of the McKenzie River. Property acquisitions will leverage funds from multiple sources to mitigate areas within the wildfire impacted areas of the Holiday Farm Fire (HFF). Purchases from willing sellers will allow McKenzie River Trust to coordinate the removal of destroyed homes, structures, septic systems, driveways, and other infrastructure to restore and improve the riparian and floodplain.

EWEB has agreed to contribute and provide up to \$1,500,000 as a 50% matching grant toward the acquisition and long-term stewardship management of said properties. EWEB staff will work with MRT to determine relevant properties and manage each acquisition to achieve the greatest possible leverage for EWEB’s Investment. The criteria used to prioritize acquisition opportunities includes: a) structure destroyed in the HFF; b) destroyed structure in floodway or 100-year floodplain; c) percentage of tax lot within the floodway and 100-year floodplain; d) property listed on EWEB’s priority list generated from GIS analysis; e) adjacency to land already conserved or publicly owned; f) has potential nexus with large scale restoration projects (either planned or existing); g) contains streams, wetlands, or springs connected to the McKenzie River; h) contains fish and wildlife habitat characteristics; and i) overall cost of acquisition as relative to other parcels that may be available.

MRT will acquire and hold the title to each property and manage the riparian and floodplain of the property primarily for fish and wildlife habitat and water quality values, and will have authority for all management decisions across each property while in its possession. MRT will ensure that while in its possession, the land's water quality, fish and wildlife and their habitat, and other conservation values that are characteristic of healthy floodplains will be protected and/or restored. MRT will provide EWEB staff with periodic updates on the project for land stewardship and restoration. If in the future MRT sells the property, EWEB will be entitled to recover a portion of its investment from net proceeds of the sale, if any, after deductions for transaction costs, site management and improvements, habitat restoration projects, and related investments by MRT in the site.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve an Agreement with **McKenzie River Trust** for **the acquisition and management of floodway properties impacted by the Holiday Farm Fire for willing sellers**. Funds for this work are supported by the recently approved 2021 Water budget amendment of \$3.9 million for supporting the Holiday Farm Fire Watershed Restoration Program. Approximately \$1.5 million was planned for these goods or services in the O & M budgets for 2021. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.