




## MEMORANDUM

December 6, 2024

**TO:** MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION  
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President  
Hon. Gail Gilman, Vice President  
Hon. Willie Adams  
Hon. Stephen Engblom  
Hon. Steven Lee

**FROM:** Elaine Forbes  
Executive Director 

**SUBJECT:** Request Authorization to Award Professional Service Contract 1000034740,  
Request for Proposals for Heron's Head Park Biological and Physical  
Monitoring to Environmental Science Associates, in the amount of \$679,232.

**DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Attached Resolution No. 24-58

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The marsh restoration and shoreline construction of the Heron's Head Shoreline Resilience project was completed in December 2022. A requirement of the permits and authorizations issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and US Fish & Wildlife Service is that the Port implement a specific 10-year monitoring program that was approved by these agencies as a condition of permit issuance. By the end of 2024, the Port will have completed two years of monitoring. Staff now requests authorization to engage a consultant to monitor the remaining eight years of this Project. Pursuant to the Port Commission's authorization to advertise (Resolution 24-34) on August 9, 2024, Port staff issued a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for Heron's Head Park Biological and Physical Monitoring on September 25, 2024. The Port received one proposal in response to the RFP. Port staff recommends the Port Commission's authorization to award Environmental Science Associates a contract in the amount of \$679,232 with a term lasting through March 31, 2033, and the ability to increase the contract value based on the actual needs of

the project. The funding source for this project is the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Grant.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES**

The contract supports the Port's Strategic Plan as follows:

### Resilience:

Reduce seismic and climate change risks to protect the waterfront.

The preceding construction Project was a pilot project utilizing a nature-based design to adapt to sea level rise through 2050, and this monitoring program will continue to support this goal.

### Sustainability:

Advance environmental stewardship to limit climate changes and protect the Bay.

Acceptance of the multiple grant funds that have funded the Project and this subsequent monitoring phase, will substantially contribute to the Port's achievement of this objective. Also, the Strategic Plan specifically says to, "Implement nature-based shoreline stabilization and improvement projects and complete the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Project by 2023." This is the follow-on work related to this goal.

### Evolution:

Evolve the waterfront to respond to changing public and Port needs.

Protecting and enhancing the shoreline and wetland habitat at Heron's Head Park will increase biodiversity and preserve a valuable public asset that is enjoyed by a diversity of users. In doing so, the Project and subsequent monitoring phase preserves opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation and connection to nature in an area of the City where there is less access to such benefits.

### Engagement:

Engage constituents and the public on Port functions and activities.

Port staff has presented the Project and subsequent monitoring phase to the Port's Southern Advisory Committee and the EcoCenter Advisory Committee (staffed by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department) on multiple occasions over the past years. Also, the grant funders have worked with Port staff to engage the public on the use of their funds. Port staff have and will continue to give tours and present the benefits and lessons learned from the project with the media, at conferences, and with local visitors.

## **Background**

The Port of San Francisco's Heron's Head Park is a 21-acre peninsula in San Francisco, California, comprised of seven acres of tidal marsh and ponds, and 14 acres of public open space. In 1998 the Port conducted a project to rehabilitate and enhance tidal marsh habitats on approximately 10 acres of the peninsula. Since that time, there has been

extensive wave-driven erosion along the peninsula's southern shoreline, significantly reducing the area and quality of the marsh habitat. In December 2022, the Port completed the "Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project," a shoreline restoration project that constructed a coarse gravel beach, rock shoreline stabilization structures, and other habitat enhancement elements. The design intent was to create an ecologically functional shoreline that would resist erosion, improve the habitat value of the marsh, and be resilient to sea level rise for the next 30 years. The Project provides a demonstration of a nature-based design approach, and the Port has, in accordance with the permitting agencies, committed to monitoring the site's physical and ecological evolution for 10 years after construction completion to inform future nature-based shoreline management.

The Port's commitment to monitoring consists of a series of site visits to take photos, measurements, and physical specimens to compile into an annual report that is submitted to the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team ("BRRIT"), the grant-funding agencies, and other stakeholders. The BRRIT provides oversight to the Project and was formed during the design phase. It is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS"), Army Corps of Engineers, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The grant funding for this specific scope of work (10 years of monitoring) is from the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.

Monitoring tasks and report writing will have been completed through "Year 2" (December 2024) via an As-Needed Planning and Environment contract. Due to the extended duration of 8 years, the Port is seeking to contract with a team with the appropriate qualifications to perform the monitoring and report writing through the end of the 10-year monitoring period of December 2032 and through March 2033 to submit and finalize the reports.

Due to the sensitive bird and oyster species at the site, there are environmental requirements and procedures that must be followed for any personnel entering the marsh. The awarded team must have qualified staff and knowledge about the species on site and comply with the permitting requirements that will be outlined in the solicitation documents. Biologists performing certain tasks will need to have their resume approved by USFWS.

## **PROJECT ADVERTISEMENT AND CONTRACTOR OUTREACH**

On September 25, 2024, the Port issued a Formal Request for Proposals for Heron's Head Park Biological and Physical Monitoring, Sourcing Event 0000009983. The Port conducted an optional site visit on September 30, 2024 and held a pre-proposal conference on October 3, 2024. At the request of the Interested Parties, the Port extended the Proposal Due Date by one week. The Port received three questions by the October 4, 2024 question deadline and responded by issuing a Response to Question memo on October 7, 2024.

Prior to the advertisement, Port staff worked closely with the Contract Monitoring Division to outreach to the Local Business Enterprise ("LBE") community. The Port sent minimum

qualifications requesting availability and interest to the LBE community before advertising and included interested parties on the outreach list.

The Port issued an intent to award notification to the Interested Parties on October 28, 2024 and received zero protests.

## **AWARDEE SUMMARY**

Environmental Science Associates (“ESA”) has extensive experience in habitat restoration and monitoring in the San Francisco Bay. The proposed team has worked together on complex monitoring and reporting for restoration planning and design and associated monitoring plan development and implementation across the San Francisco Bay and Delta. This includes leading the planning and design of more than 17,000 acres of in-the-ground restoration projects in the San Francisco Bay and Delta systems. Past projects include the United States Army Corps of Engineers Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (1996-Current), Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Lower Walnut Creek Restoration (2014-Current), and the previous Heron’s Head Park Shoreline Resilience Project.

The Project Manager/Project Director for ESA is a licensed civil engineer in the State of California and has extensive experience leading relevant projects such as the North Richmond Living Levee (2017-Current), Bothin Marsh Sea-Level Rise Adaptation (2019-Current); and Long Beach Shoreline Restoration (2022-Present).

The Key Personnel for oyster reef ball monitoring, marsh vegetation monitoring, and bird monitoring are each particularly qualified and have extensive experience in their specific area. The team is highly skilled and includes LBE consultants listed for meaningful scopes of work.

CMD issued a Review Memo on October 28, 2024, demonstrating that ESA exceeded the 8% LBE subconsulting requirement by using the following Micro/Small LBE firms:

<b>LBE Subconsultant</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>LBE Status</b>	<b>LBE Participation</b>
Acta Environmental, Inc.	Environmental Advisory Services; Annual Reporting	SF LBE- WBE (Micro)	2.5%
Coast Ridge Ecology, LLC	Environmental Advisory Services; Habitat Environmental Services; Annual Reporting; Biological Monitoring	SF LBE- OBE (Micro)	4.5%
BioMaAs Inc.	Environmental Advisory Services; Habitat Environmental Services; Annual Reporting	SF LBE- MBE (Small)	9.2%
<b>Total LBE Participation Commitment</b>			<b>16.2%</b>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Port recommends approval of the attached resolution.

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For: Nate Cruz  
Deputy Director  
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**PORT COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-58**

WHEREAS, the Port requires third-party expertise to conform with grant requirements to provide 10 years of biological and physical monitoring for the Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience project; and

WHEREAS, On September 25, 2024, Port staff advertised a Request for Proposals ("RFP") for Heron's Head Park Biological and Physical monitoring with an 8% LBE subconsulting requirement set by the Contract Monitoring Division ("CMD"), which is responsible for administering the Local Business Enterprise ("LBE") program; and

WHEREAS, the Port received one proposal on October 23, 2024 that is responsive and exceeds the LBE participation requirement; and

WHEREAS, Port staff recommends awarding a contract to the sole qualified respondent for biological and physical monitoring of the marsh restoration project at Heron's Head Park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Port Commission hereby authorizes Port staff to award one contract to Environmental Science Associates for biological and physical monitoring of the marsh restoration project at Heron's Head Park for a not-to-exceed amount of \$679,232 through the monitoring and reporting process of March 31, 2033, with the ability to increase the value based on actual contractual needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Port Commission authorizes Port staff to take further actions in connection with the award of the contract as necessary to achieve the purposes described in this Resolution.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Port Commission at its meeting of December 10, 2024.***

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Secretary