



DATE: February 6, 2023

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council

VIA: Stefan Chatwin, City Manager

FROM: Derek Schweigart, Parks and Recreation Director  
Frank Fanara, Parks Maintenance Manager

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WILDLIFE INNOVATIONS INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$48,660 FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERGRATED CANADA GOOSE POPULATION MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDING AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Wildlife Innovations Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$48,660 for the development of an integrated Canada Goose Population Management Plan including an environmental review, authorizing an additional budget appropriation of \$35,960 and the establishment of a contingency in the amount of \$7,300 with authorization given to the City Manager to execute contract amendments up to the contingency amount.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the regular City Council meeting on September 19, 2022, the Council by way of Minute Order No. 1878 received and accepted the Canada Goose Population Management Plan Update and directed staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a consultant to develop an Integrated Canada Goose Population Management Plan. There were 4 consultant responses to the RFP which were reviewed, and

interviews conducted with all the applicants. Wildlife Innovations Inc. demonstrated the ability to meet the City's requirements including an aggressive timeline and provided a competitive cost proposal.

## BACKGROUND

For years, the City has tried to control the goose population through numerous mitigation strategies to maintain a sustainable number of geese within the City. Canada Geese are extremely adaptable and have found Foster City to be an ideal environment resulting in an increased population of resident geese. The growing population has resulted in higher concentrations of droppings which contain bacteria that present health hazards, degrade the water quality of the lagoon, and diminish the community's ability to enjoy the City's parks, sports fields, and other public amenities. During this time City Staff began working with both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) to obtain a depredation permit to potentially be used with other non-lethal methods to control the population.

In November of 2021, staff obtained the USDA permit (form 37) which was required to proceed with applying for a USFWS permit 3-200-13 Migratory Bird Depredation. Obtaining the permit required staff to submit documentation of all the City's non-lethal efforts to control the population, as well as a mitigation plan to identify next steps for mitigating the geese. Staff were given a verbal approval for the permit but delayed having the permit issued to ensure that was the direction City Council wanted to pursue. On July 18, 2022, by way of Minute Order No. 1863, City Council provided direction to staff to obtain 3-20013: Migratory Bird - Depredation Permit which was issued to the city on July 25, 2022, and expires on July 31, 2023.

Upon issuance of the depredation permit, City staff consulted with potential vendors and wildlife agencies and determined that performing depredation at this time would be more difficult and potentially less effective as the geese in Foster City were no longer in their molt period. At the regular Council meeting on September 19, 2022, staff recommended that any depredation efforts be postponed until the next molting season and asked Council for direction in issuing an RFP to identify a consultant to develop a comprehensive Canada Goose Population Management Plan which was approved by way of Minute Order No. 1878. On January 17, 2023, the Council received a request to approve an agreement with Wildlife Innovations, Inc. for the development of the Canada Goose Population Management Plan but the item was continued to a meeting no later than the last regularly scheduled Council meeting on February 21.

## ANALYSIS

The City's current Canada Goose Population Management Plan was developed by City staff which documents the impacts of human-geese conflicts and the strategies the City has attempted in modifying geese behavior and reducing their population. While consulting with several wildlife specialists and vendors, staff discovered that while the City tried several hazing and other non-lethal strategies to control the geese, no single strategy was effective in isolation. An effective plan would be one that incorporates many various strategies simultaneously and consistently over an extended period to

have the greatest impact on the geese behavior. This is a complex problem requiring a comprehensive and robust approach to be more effective. Upon Council direction, staff issued a Request for Proposals for consultants to provide professional services to develop a comprehensive and integrated Goose Population Management Plan on October 14, 2022, and received four (4) proposals from biological and environmental consultants that specialize in wildlife management. The firms included the following:

- Wildlife Innovations, Inc.
- Hardshell Labs, Inc.
- Huffman-Broadway Group
- LSA

Interviews were conducted with all the firms, and it was determined that the proposal from Wildlife Innovations Inc. met the requirements of the RFP and were the most suited to develop a plan that would be implementable in both the short and longer term.

The proposal from Wildlife Innovations, Inc. was reviewed, and the fee negotiated in the amount of \$48,660. Since the initial proposal submittal, staff coordinated with the consultant to modify the scope of services as necessary to include the essential services required to complete the desired plan. Some services that were deemed unnecessary were removed from the scope of work and included as optional services to be added if requested by the City at a later point. The fees were determined reasonable and competitive for this project, while meeting key components as required by the City.

The scope of services for this project includes preparing an integrated Canada Goose Population Management Plan which will provide the framework of managing the Canada Goose Population within Foster City Parks going forward. The plan will contain new management actions for both short- and long-term management which will be developed after reviewing past practices and techniques by not only Foster City but surrounding agencies. The plan will also contain habitat assessments and provide recommendations for habitat modifications to make the parks less inviting to the Canada Goose. Wildlife Innovations will also work to educate the community regarding the plan and proposed management actions. As a component of the plan, Wildlife Innovations will prepare an Initial Study per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and if no evidence is found that the actions proposed in the plan will have a significant impact, a Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration will be prepared. For complete scope of work, see the attached Wildlife Innovations proposal (attachment 3).

Once given notice to proceed, it is anticipated that the plan development will be completed in 6 months pending CEQA review process. When the updated Canada Goose Population Management Plan is complete, it will be presented to the City Council for its consideration and acceptance.

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Approval of this Agreement with Wildlife Innovations is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15000 et.

seq.), including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations 15378 as said approval is not a “project” that may cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment. However, as part of the services that will be provided through this Agreement, Wildlife Innovations will conduct environmental review as part of the preparation of the Canada Goose Population Management Plan, in compliance with CEQA.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed fees in the amount of \$48,660 have been negotiated and determined reasonable based on the scope of services. Additionally, a project contingency in the amount of \$7,300, or approximately 15% of the contract amount is recommended to pay for additional services that may be required. The total fiscal impact is \$55,960 including contingency. There is \$20,000 identified in the current budget (\$20,000 balance will be drawn from existing budgeted funds in account 001-0520-452-4251) for the Canada Goose Population Management Plan, and an additional budget appropriation of \$35,960 and the establishment of a contingency in the amount of \$7,300 will be needed.

#### CITY COUNCIL VISION, MISSION, AND VALUE/PRIORITY AREA

Facilities and Infrastructure.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Resolution  
Attachment 2 – Agreement  
Attachment 3 – Proposal