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## **TITLE**

Napa Pasture Protein Grazing Agreement Amendment No. 2

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into Amendment No. 2 to Agreement No. 2024-71 with Napa Pasture Protein, increasing the contract amount \$128,000, for a total amount not to exceed \$364, 000 for Fiscal Year 26/27 citywide grazing.

## **CONTACT**

Erica Ahmann Smithies, P.E., Public Works Director

## **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

On May 21, 2024, City Council awarded Napa Pasture Protein Agreement No. 2024-71 for citywide grazing in Fiscal Year 2024/25 with the option to renew on an annual basis for up to four additional years based on budget appropriations. The grazing contract included funding from Napa Firewise with their commitment to fund a second year. City staff including the Fire District see the grazing program as successful and recommends renewing the contract a second year.

The overall goal of the program is to improve defensible space of the surrounding residential areas by reducing the fire load and forest understory as well as taking a more sustainable approach in vegetation management for the City. The sheep are not only able to get into areas that City work forces would not have been able to access without regulatory permits, they also have brought regular positive feedback from around the community.

Napa Pasture Protein's proposal will continue to include a dedicated herd of animals, that may consist of sheep, goats, and a livestock guardian animal or two, to graze approximately 218+ acre of the open space and park areas as identified on the attached maps. The herd will follow a path grazing from space to space in a rotational method throughout the year. They will pass through some of the spaces multiple times per year, to control the vegetation for ecological health, fire safety, and for safe public usage.

When grazing sites have multiple passes, the benefits are greater noxious weed control, decreased fire fuels, and improved soil health. This is due in part to the benefits achieved during different seasons and vegetation phases. Additional benefits include improved carbon sequestering,

decreased surface water loss, and improved wildlife habitats.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

Outdoors and Recreation: "Expand opportunities for use of outdoor recreation and an active and healthy lifestyle."

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The 2024 proposal for the citywide grading contract was for \$218,000 with options to renew on an annual basis up to 5 years based on future budget appropriations. Napa Firewise contracted directly with Napa Pasture Protein for \$100,000 with the City contributing the remaining \$118,000 for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

On June 3, 2025, City Council authorized Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2025/26 for an amount of \$118,000 to continue the grazing contract through June 30, 2026. Napa Firewise contributed \$100,000.

Napa Firewise committed to a third year of funding for Fiscal Year 2026/27 but at a reduced amount of \$90,000 meaning the City's contributions for Fiscal Year 2026/27 will increase to \$128,000 to continue the grazing contract of \$218,000 through June 30, 2027.

Napa Pasture Protein has divided the entire contract amount of \$218,000 to be spread out over a 12-month period so the City's expenditures are anticipated to begin in September 2025 therefore a budget appropriation is not needed at this time to renew the contract.

Funding for Amendment No. 2 is included in the proposed FY 2026/27 Budget. The funding source for this contract will be split among multiple operations as the grazing will be taking place on City open spaces located at various facilities, parks, right of way and watershed areas. The FY2026/27 budget will be allocated through the following funding sources:

- Fund 210 Measure A
- Fund 261, LLAD Zone 1
- Fund 262, LLAD Zone 2
- Fund 252, Newell Open Space
- Fund 100, General Fund.
- Fund 540, Wastewater Enterprise

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

15378(b) - The action is not a "Project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") because it does not qualify as a "Project" under Public Resources Code Sections 21065 and 21080 and in Section 15378(b) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Level 0: No Further Public Communication Needed

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Resolution: Grazing Amendment 2](#)