



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 6.10

DATE: July 27, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Brent Smith, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and administer a Professional Services Agreement with the University of California, Davis - Road Ecology Center, for a research grant on behalf of the Altamont Landfill Open Space Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute and administer a Professional Services Agreement to implement the grant awarded by the Altamont Landfill Open Space Advisory Committee to the University of California, Davis – Road Ecology Center, for a two year period in the amount of \$246,803, to research and develop a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) method and web tools.

SUMMARY

On May 16, 2025, the Altamont Landfill Open Space Advisory Committee (Open Space Committee) recommended approval of a grant application by the UC Davis Road Ecology Center for \$246,803 over a two-year period (approximately \$123,402 per year) to research and develop a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) method and web-tool to assist with Committee decision making about land and easement acquisitions (the Agreement and Scope of Work is Exhibit A to the Resolution). The expenditure would comply with the 5% annual limit for research purposes in Section 7.4.7 of the 1999 Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement).

The City of Livermore will administer and monitor the funding Agreement because the Open Space Committee does not have contract authority. The funding would be transferred from the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement Open Space Fund to a City Open Space Account. The City's role will be to transfer funds to UC Davis for consultant services, on an invoice payment basis.

DISCUSSION

ALTAMONT LANDFILL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Open Space Committee recommends expenditures of funds to protect natural resources, biodiversity, scenic value, and recreational opportunities. The Open Space Committee reviews grant

applications for land or easement acquisitions and research studies that are intended to support the Committee's decision-making for proposed acquisitions. Additionally, the Open Space Committee has resources to support research studies furthering the purpose and intent of Section 7.4.7 of the Settlement Agreement that states the following:

"By approval of a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee, and concurrence by the County and Cities, up to five percent (5%) of the funds received in the Open Space Account in any given year may be expended for the services of independent consultants to aid the Advisory Committee in carrying out its duties to identify open space areas in need of protection and to make plans for their acquisitions, and up to two percent (2%) of the funds received in the Open Space Account any given year may be expended for costs incurred in the financial management of the account."

No funds have been expended this year for consultant services per Section 7.4.7 of the Settlement Agreement. The requested amounts are anticipated to be within the allowed range per year.

The Open Space Committee is comprised of four members: one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one member appointed by the Livermore City Council, one member appointed by the Pleasanton City Council and one member appointed by the Sierra Club. A representative of the City of Dublin may participate as a non-voting member. Rotating Livermore City Council members provide representation on the Committee. Vice Mayor Wang is the current Livermore representative.

On September 8, 2025, the City Council adopted a resolution confirming the Committee's recommendation to authorize the research grant for UC Davis. The research is intended to support the Committee's prioritization of lands for protection based on wildlife presence/activity, potential habitat, and habitat connectivity, including across freeways. The Open Space Committee will utilize this information, as appropriate, to support initial strategies for potential land acquisition in fee title or conservation easements to enable native wildlife (plants and animals) survival and movement.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

Funding the grant requests would have no impact on the City's General Fund other than the allocation of staff time to prepare this report to the City Council and administering a grant agreement with the UC Davis Road Ecology Center over a two-year period. All the funding for the study would be transferred from the Altamont Landfill Settlement Agreement Open Space Fund to a City Open Space Account. The City's role will be to transfer funds to UC Davis for consultant services, on an invoice payment basis.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

3: Environmental Stewardship

GOAL

1: Lead efforts to implement the updated Climate Action Plan in collaboration with internal and external partners

ATTACHMENTS

[1. Resolution](#)

2. Exhibit A - Professional Services Agreement

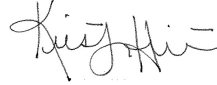
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Approved by:



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Kristen Hilton
Acting Administrative Services Director