



Agenda Date: 3/28/2006
Agenda Placement: 6I

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Greg Clark for Dave Whitmer - Agricultural Commissioner
Agricultural Commissioner
REPORT BY: Jeffery Erwin, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, 253-4357
SUBJECT: Agreement with Kristin Lowell, Inc. to prepare Engineers Report for Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District

RECOMMENDATION

Agricultural Commissioner requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Kristin Lowell, Inc. for a maximum amount of \$10,200 for the term March 28, 2006 through August 31, 2006, for civil engineering services for the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approval of the recommended action will authorize Kristin Lowell, Inc. (KLI) to prepare the Engineer's Report for the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 for purposes of determining the per acre assessment for owner's of qualifying planted vineyard acreage in order to fund the district's programs related to the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease. The agreement also provides that KLI will perform additional tasks necessary to poll owners of vineyards one acre or larger on whether the district's use of assessments should be expanded to include other pests such as vine mealybug.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is a covered activity under the adopted Negative Declaration that was prepared for the formation of the District.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

In August 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved and levied assessments for the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District (NCWPDCD) pursuant to Proposition 218. Each year thereafter, pursuant to Government Code section 6296.3, the Board of Supervisors "shall cause to be prepared and filed with the clerk of the board of supervisors a written report" that contains among other things, a description of each parcel of property subject to the assessment and the amount of the assessment of each parcel. The document containing this information is called the "Engineer's Report."

The professional services agreement (PSA) with Kristin Lowell Inc. (KLI) provides that KLI will prepare the Engineer's Report, as well as assist the county in updating its database of existing planted vineyard acreage within the district area, and calculate the assessments for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. The assessments will then be submitted to the County Auditor's office in a timely manner for them to include the assessments on the property tax bills.

The agreement also provides for KLI to perform tasks necessary to conduct balloting procedures pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218 for a vote by qualifying landowners on a proposal by the District Board to expand the scope of the use of the existing assessments to include funding programs for the control of other winegrape pests and diseases, such as vine mealybug, in addition to the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease.

When vine mealybug, a serious pest of grapevines indigenous to the Mediterranean region was found to be infesting several Napa County vineyards in 2002, the NCWPDCD sought to work with the Agricultural Commissioner to stop the spread of this pest. Now, in 2006, the NCWPDCD Board intends to poll Napa's winegrape growers on whether they want the Board to use assessment funds for this purpose. The PSA will authorize KLI to perform additional tasks necessary to poll owners of vineyards one acre or larger on whether the WPDCD's use of assessments should be expanded to include other pests such as vine mealybug. Kristin Lowell Inc. has been selected because of its unique and specialized knowledge of the assessment area.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey