

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2006 JUN 15 PM 4:05

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Fire Department
DATE: June 27, 2006

RE: **Report And Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter Into A Two (2) Year Agreement With Ecosystem Concepts, Inc., A Corporation, For Goat Grazing Services To Reduce Wildland Fuels On City Owned Parkland In An Amount Not To Exceed Two Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$265,000) Per Year For A Total Contract Amount Not To Exceed Five Hundred And Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$530,000) For The Two Year Period July 1, 2006 To June 30, 2008.**

SUMMARY

Goat grazing has become an important part of the vegetation management strategy employed by the City of Oakland Fire Department. The goats are taken to the various open space areas within the City and are allowed to graze until a sufficient amount of vegetation is removed to reduce the threat of fire at that location. Prior to the placement of the grazing goats at the sites, Fire Department, Public Works, Parks and Recreation staff review the proposed fuels management treatment for each location. In addition, shepherds are on site to ensure that the goats only eat invasive or undesirable plants and leave protected or endangered flora. The resulting grazed area provides a firebreak that reduces the speed at which a fire can travel horizontally and threaten nearby structures.

It has been demonstrated by several fires within the City, that goat grazing plays a significant factor in reducing the spread of these fires and the damage caused.

Approval of the resolution would allow the Fire Department to start grazing during the spring. In addition to getting an early start on fuel reduction within the City, the foliage that the goats eat is still green, provides better nutrients and is beneficial for the goats.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact to the General Fund from City Council action on this report. However, City Council action does affect the process for assessing and collecting revenues from the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) for FY 2006-07. For FY 2006-07, the City anticipates revenues of approximately \$1.7 million from the WPAD. WPAD revenues are used to fund fire suppression, prevention and preparedness services and programs in the Oakland hills.

Funding for the WPAD is made available in the Budget Office as part of the FY 2006-07 adopted budget and departmental budget request FY 2006-07 in the WPAD fund (#2321) in the Office of the Fire Marshal (org # 20311), program code PS23. The Wildfire Prevention

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Advisory Committee has allocated funding in the amount of \$265,000 for each year of the 2 year contract for the annual goat-grazing program.

BACKGROUND

The mission of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District and the Oakland Fire Department is to reduce the risk of fire in the Oakland Hills. The 10-year goal is to establish and implement a strategic, cost effective, sustainable, and environmentally sensitive fuel management plan. By removing the build-up of non-native vegetation from the canyons throughout the high fire hazard area, strategic fuel breaks are created. These fuel break systems can be used to compartmentalize and dampen fire progression patterns across large expanses of wildland, thus transforming them into more manageable fire control areas. If the proposed resolution is approved, an Agreement will be executed with Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. to provide the City with goat grazing services at Knowland Park (218 acres), Joaquin Miller Park (90 acres), Glen Daniel/King Estate Park, (85 acres), Castle Canyon (13 acres), Shepherd Canyon (13 acres), Jordan Road/ London Road open space (5 acres) and Dunsmuir Estate (28 acres).

The proposed Agreement with Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. to graze these locations will bring these areas into compliance with the Oakland Fire Code and protect the surrounding neighborhoods from the threat of wildland fire.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Contract Process and Duration

In accordance with the City of Oakland contract compliance competitive bidding requirement, the Fire Department submitted requests for proposals and bids to the four goat grazing services located in the Bay Area. The Fire Department, Fire Prevention staff made its selection of the grazing contractor based on a number of criteria and not solely on the lowest cost proposed. Selection criteria consisted of the following:

- a. The best match of the grazer to city's project needs, including experience, staffing, etc.
- b. The best match of the grazer's availability to meet OFD fuel reduction timing needs.
- c. The best match of herd size and composition to meet fuel reduction, habitat, and long-term vegetation conversion objectives.
- d. Previous location of goat grazing activities.
- e. Provide a minimum of 3500 goats. A numbered ear tag must identify all goats.
- f. Care for the goats shall be in such a manner to demonstrate that all the goats used for this project are healthy and well nourished.
- g. All animals shall have a health certificate signed by a license veterinarian. All animals used for this project shall be vaccinated for rabies and be internal/external parasite free. In addition, goats shall be CAE free as documented by blood testing and be confined –fed for 4 days prior to arriving in Oakland.

The goat grazing company Ecosystems Concepts Inc. was the only bidding company to meet these requirements pursuant to the project terms and on the basis of the average price (\$531.10 per acre), large herd size (3500 owner-raised goats), and comprehensive animal health program. Additionally, Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. provided excellent performance in grazing Knowland Park, Joaquin Miller Park, and Glen Daniel/King Estate Park, and Dunsmuir from 1996-2005. Any additional grazing will be compensated at a rate of \$265.55 per acre.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Prior to the beginning of each grazing season, staff from the Fire Department and Parks and Recreation, Open Space Division meet to identify the areas to be grazed by the goats. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that the goats are fenced into the area that is to be grazed and that trees and other desirable plants are protected.

City staff monitors the amount of grazing to ensure that overgrazing does not occur and enough vegetation remains to prevent soil erosion. The Oakland Fire Department is one of four public agencies in the East Bay that use grazing as a vegetation management tool. Staff is recommending a two (2) year Professional Services contract with Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. The Fire Department has reviewed the project proposals and determined that none of the other three submitting firms have the number of goats required to graze the above listed areas in a timely manner during fire season nor met the animal health requirements. It is in the best interests of the City, therefore, to reject all other bids and award the contract to Ecosystems Concepts, because they provide the most efficient means of reducing wild land fuels in Oakland's fire project areas.

The following table summarizes grazing areas and project costs.

GOAT GRAZING AREAS PROJECT BID

Location	Size (# Acres)	Map. #	Proposed Comp. Date	Cost per Acre	Cost
Knowland Park	218	2	May 3 -May 8	\$420.00	\$91,560
Joaquin Miller Park	90	3	June 6 - July 5	\$450.00	\$40,500
Glen Daniel / King Estates Park	85	1	June 20 - July 15	\$725.00	\$61,625
Dunsmuir	38	4	June 20 - July 4	\$725.00	\$27,550
Castle Canyon	13	5	July 11 - July 18	\$769.00	\$10,000
Jordan Road / London Road	5	6	July 11 - July 18	\$1,100.00	\$5,500
Shepherd Canyon	12	6	July 5 - July 10	\$675.00	\$8,100
	Total 461 Acres		Total Project Days 90	Avg. Cost per Acre: \$531.10	Project Cost Total: \$244,835.00

Annual cost: core grazing sites \$ 244,835.00. Total two year cost for core grazing sites \$489,670.00

Re-grazing cost in the event of additional rains: Cost per acre \$265.55

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic

There are no direct economic impacts associated with this report.

Environmental

The project promotes parkland health by controlling invasive exotic plants that threaten the native oak-bay woodland locally, and improves watershed protection by reducing the likelihood of catastrophic fire and attendant erosion. The grazing reduces a potential threat to the safety of residents and the environment from the dangers posed by wildfires within the urban/wild land interface of the Oakland Hills.

In addition to protecting the environment, it has been demonstrated that the implementation of effective and ongoing vegetation management can substantially reduce the likelihood of injuries, loss of life and property.

Social Equity

A fire safe and healthy environment benefits the entire city.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR ACCESS

There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues contained in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing a two (2) year Agreement with Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. for goat grazing services to reduce wild land fuels in Oakland's parklands, in an amount not exceed Two Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$265,000) per year for a two (2) year period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL D. FARRELL, Fire Chief

Reviewed by: James A. Williams

Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal

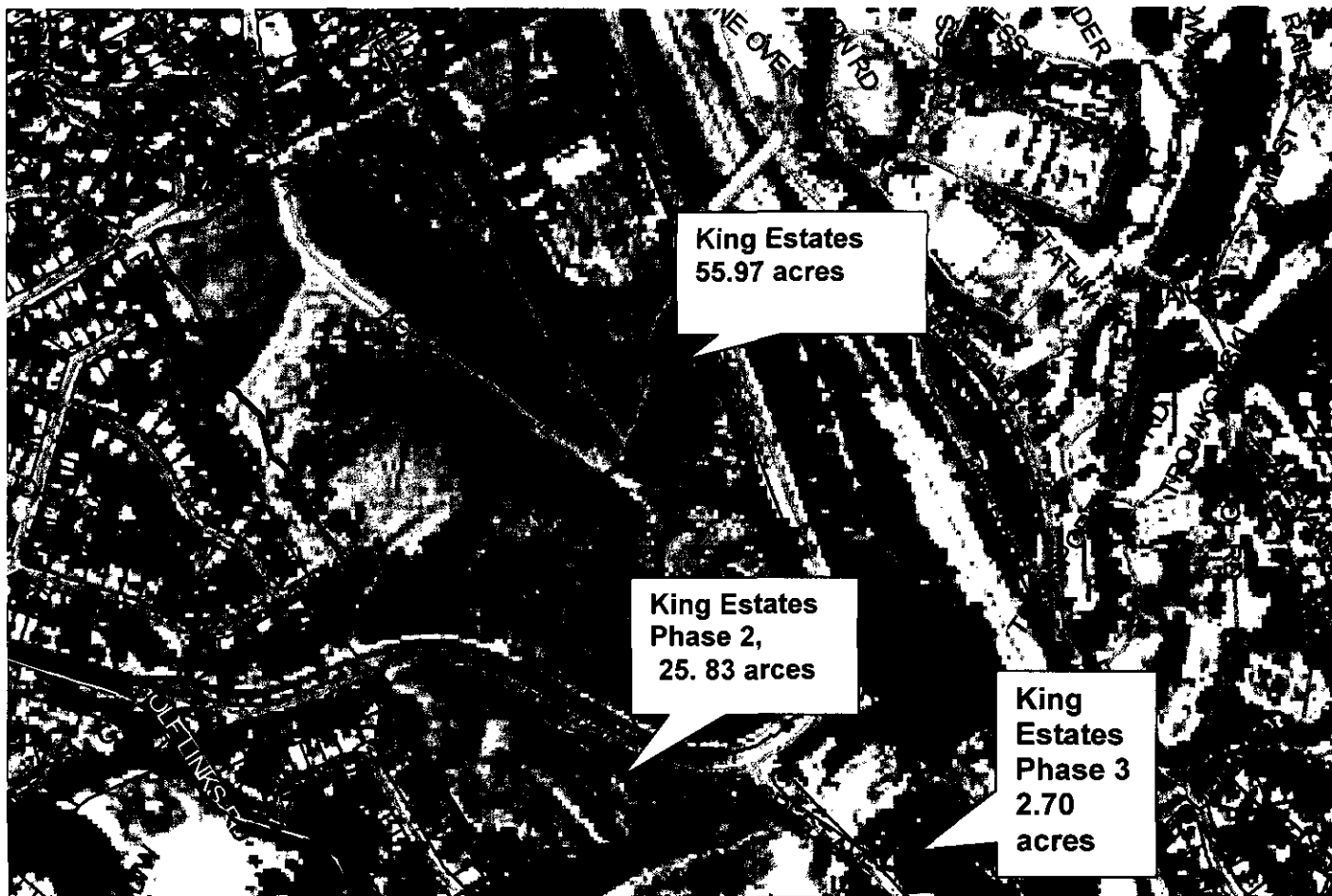
Prepared by: Leroy Griffin

Assistant Fire Marshal

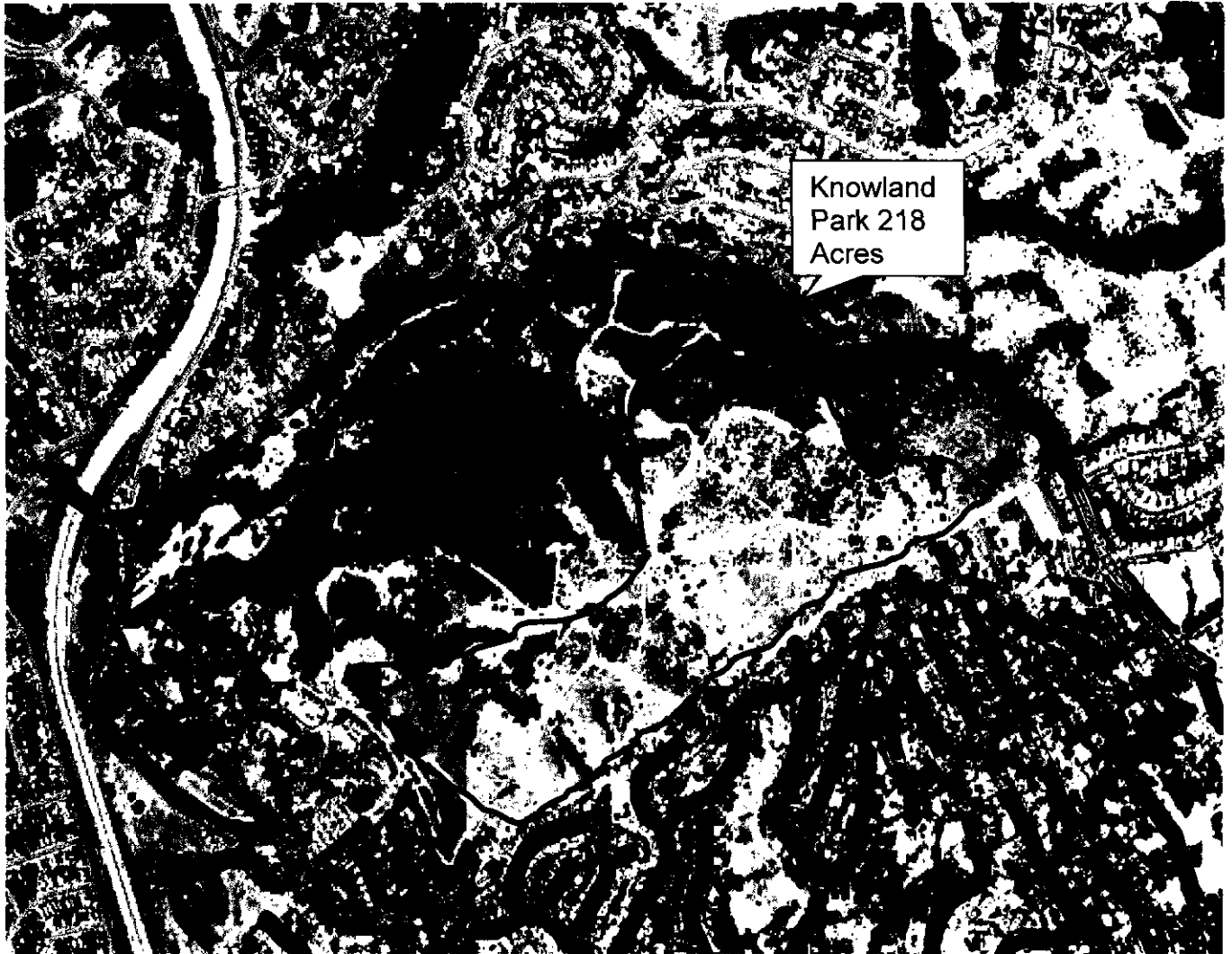
APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



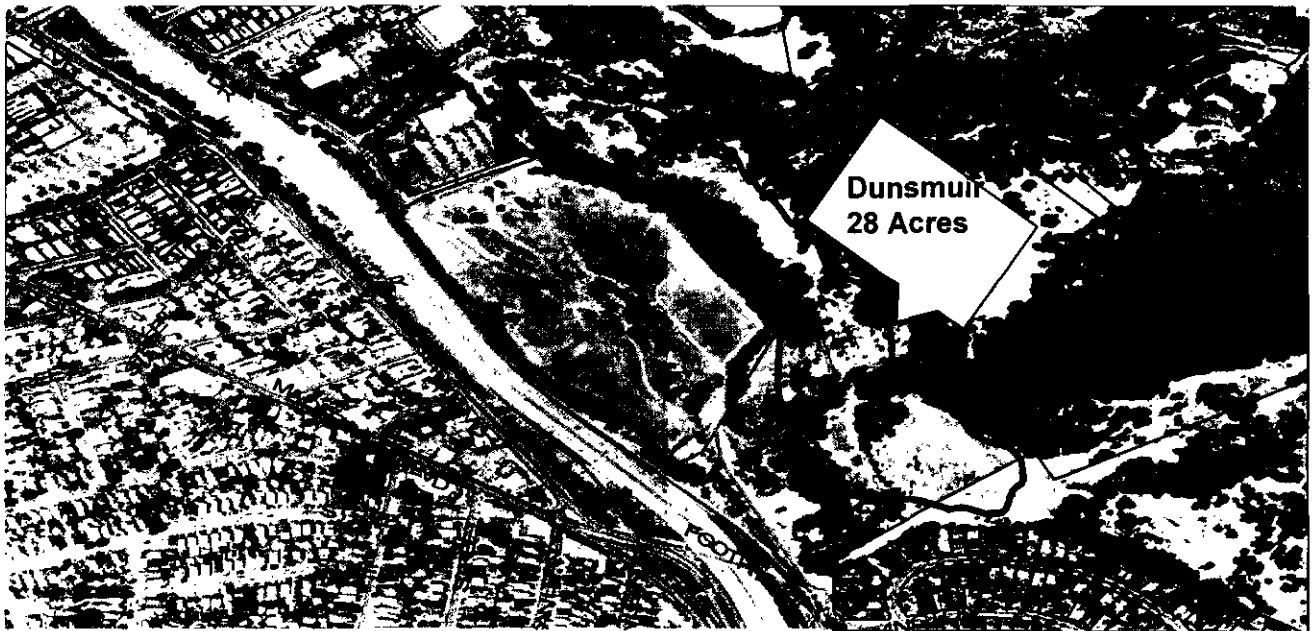
**King Estates/ Glen Daniels Park
Map 1**



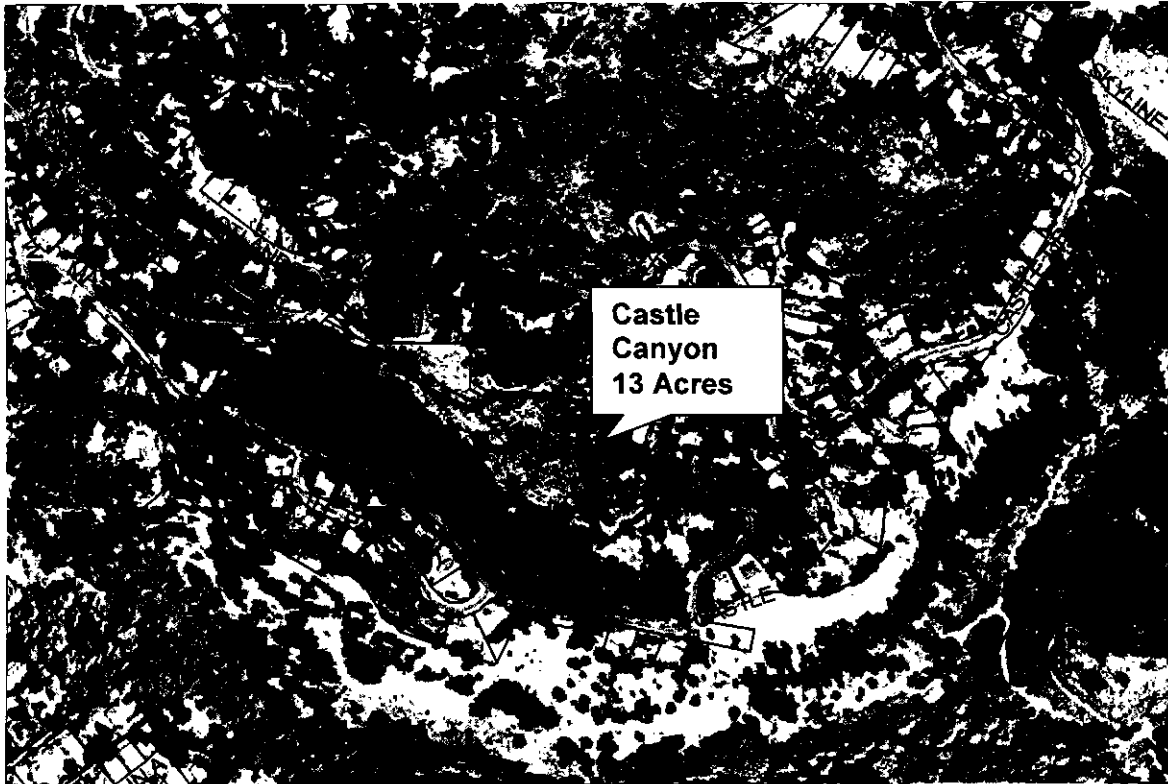
*Knowland Park
Map 2*



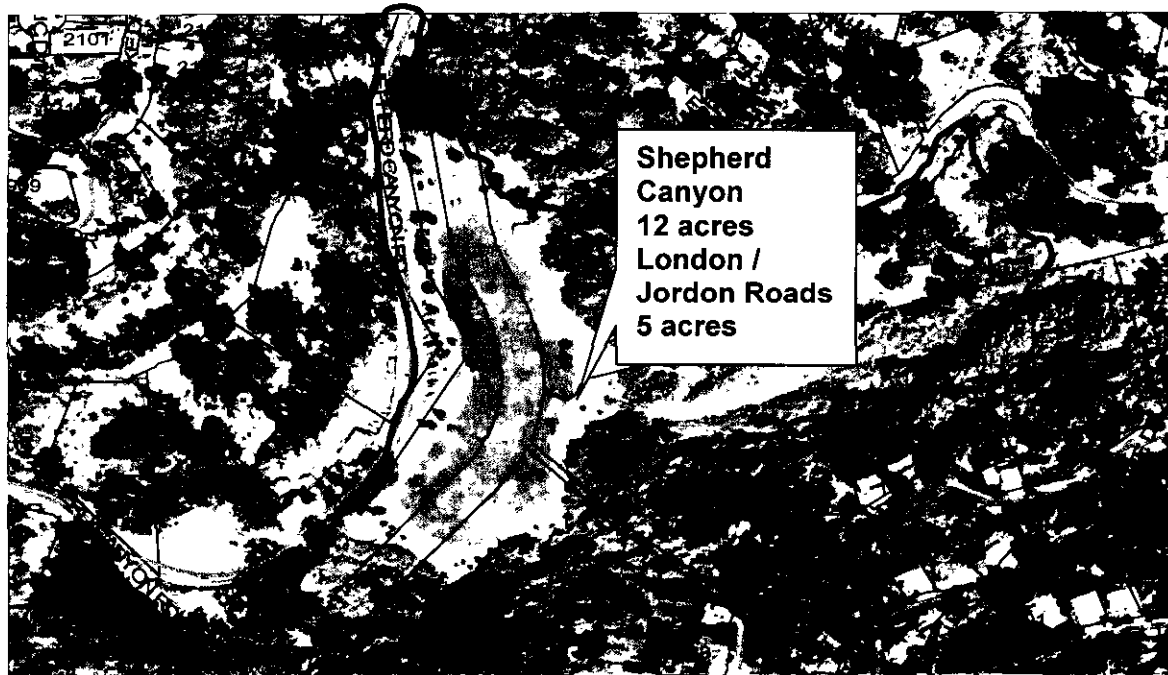
*Joaquin Miller Park
Map 3*



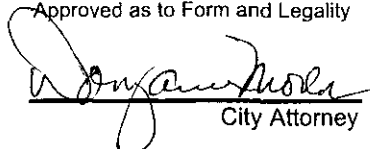
*Dunsmuir Estates
Map 4*



*Castle Canyon
Map 5*



*Shepherd Canyon/ London and Jordan Roads
Map 6*


City Attorney

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2006 JUN 15 10:10 AM
OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

2006 JUN 15 PM 4:05 **RESOLUTION No.** _____ **C.M.S.**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A TWO (2) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ECOSYSTEM CONCEPTS, INC., A CORPORATION, FOR GOAT GRAZING SERVICES TO REDUCE WILDLAND FUELS ON CITY OWNED PARKLAND IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$265,000) PER YEAR FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$530,000) FOR THE TWO YEAR PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2008

WHEREAS, the City Council has allocated funds to reduce the potential for a wild land fire and to protect public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, certain areas of City owned parkland contain flammable vegetation, which constitute a hazard to the adjacent neighborhoods including Knowland Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Glen Daniel/ King Estate Park, and Dunsmuir; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the work begin prior to the start of fire season to reduce fuel and the danger of wildfire to the surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, staff solicited proposals from Bay Area firms that provide wild land fuel control services by goat grazing and Ecosystems demonstrated the best ability to do the work in the time and manner required by the City, it provides good animal health care and has a proven record of good performance with the City; and

WHEREAS, the City lacks equipment, animals and personnel to perform the work and the City Council finds that this contract is in the public interest because of economy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this contract shall not result in the loss of employment or salary by any person having permanent status in the competitive service; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator is hereby authorized to award the contract for goat grazing services to reduce wild land fuel on City-owned parklands to Ecosystem Concepts Inc., in an amount not to exceed two hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$265,000) per year for a total contract amount not to exceed five hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$530,000) for the two-year period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the contact shall be approved for form and legality by the City Attorney and placed on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID,
and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____

LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California