

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2006 JUL 18 PM 5:34

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Fire Department
DATE: July 18, 2006

RE: **Supplemental Report Responding to Councilmembers' Questions Regarding the Report and Resolution Authorizing the City Administrator to Enter into a Two Year Professional Services Contract with Ecosystems Concepts Inc, to Perform Goat Grazing Services on City of Oakland Open Space.**

SUMMARY

On June 27, 2006 the City Council Public Safety Committee reviewed a report and recommendation for a professional services contract between the City of Oakland and Ecosystems Concepts Inc. to provide goat grazing services on City of Oakland parklands and open spaces within the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District. At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee directed staff to return to City Council with answers to specific questions related to: 1) accountability measures; 2) the actual acreage size in the program, defining the areas for goat grazing and noting areas where goats are not to be utilized; and 3) staff training of contractors regarding environmental issues.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Contract Process and Duration

In accordance with the City of Oakland competitive bidding requirements, 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. Best match of the grazer to City's project needs, including experience, staffing, etc.
- b. Best match of the grazer's availability to meet OFD fuel reduction timing needs.
- c. 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. Provision of a minimum of 3500 goats. A numbered ear tag must identify all goats.
- f. Manner of 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.

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1. Accountability Measures

Staff currently provides reports to the Wildfire Prevention District Advisory Committee at its monthly meetings. The staff reports contain the following information:

- Number of improved and unimproved parcels inspected each month;
- Number of parcels in compliance with the Fire Department's defensible space requirements;
- City of Oakland parcels inspected, number of parcels in compliance;
- Number of road miles cleared;
- Number of grazing acres scheduled and number cleared.

2. Goat Grazing Acreage

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). Staff provided aerial maps showing the locations of these sites. During the public comment period a resident expressed concern that the acreage outlined in the report was larger than area actually grazed. A member of the Friends of Sausal Creek provided staff with copies of maps showing locations that they thought were being grazed. Fire Department and Public Works Agency staff reviewed the maps and determined that goats graze certain areas that were not shown on the maps provided by the commenter. In the review of the maps provided by the Friends of Sausal Creek, staff observed the following:

- **Joaquin Miller Park:** Both sides of north end of Castle Park to Moon Gate. The polygons identified in the maps were undersized in this area and did not reflect the actual area grazed. In addition the goats graze between the West Trail and the Castle Park Trail, skipping the Castle slide area, all around Woodminster Amphitheater, the Woodminster parking lots, Craib Meadow, a strip along Joaquin Miller Road from Sanborn to Skyline and City parcels on the west side of Joaquin Miller Road near the new signal on Skyline.
- **Castle Canyon:** 75% of the site is grazed by the goats; the remaining acreage is cleared by mechanical means.
- **King Estate Park:** The entire park is grazed, along with another two acres between Crest and Highway 580.
- **Knowland Park:** The goats grazing on this City owned parcel starts in the field just above the zoo entrance between Golf Links Road and Arroyo Viejo Creek up to Elysian Fields. In addition, the goats graze more of the upper portion from

Golf Links to Skyline than the map polygon provided by the resident indicates. The goats have grazed the Skyline Extension from the water tank to Keller in the past and this additional area was included in staff calculations for this project area.

- **Dunsmuir House:** The grazing portions in this project area are between Hellmann Field/Marshall School and the mansion east to the property boundary and several acres in Dunsmuir Heights. Included are several areas within the more landscaped parts of the grounds.

3. Vegetation Management Contractor Training.

To address concerns of the residents regarding the potential for the removal of endangered and sensitive plants during the Fire Department hazardous fuel removal projects and the lack training for contractors regarding this issue, contractors were given training on endangered plants by staff from the Public Works Agency, Environmental Services Division in March 2006. Training included plant identification and how to implement the appropriate protective measures to ensure that no plants are removed. In addition, the Fire Department has entered into an agreement with the environmental firm ESA Biological Resources, to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau in the development of hazardous fire fuels removal contractor training standards, policies and procedures that are protective of sensitive species and promote fire safety.

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 wildland 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,



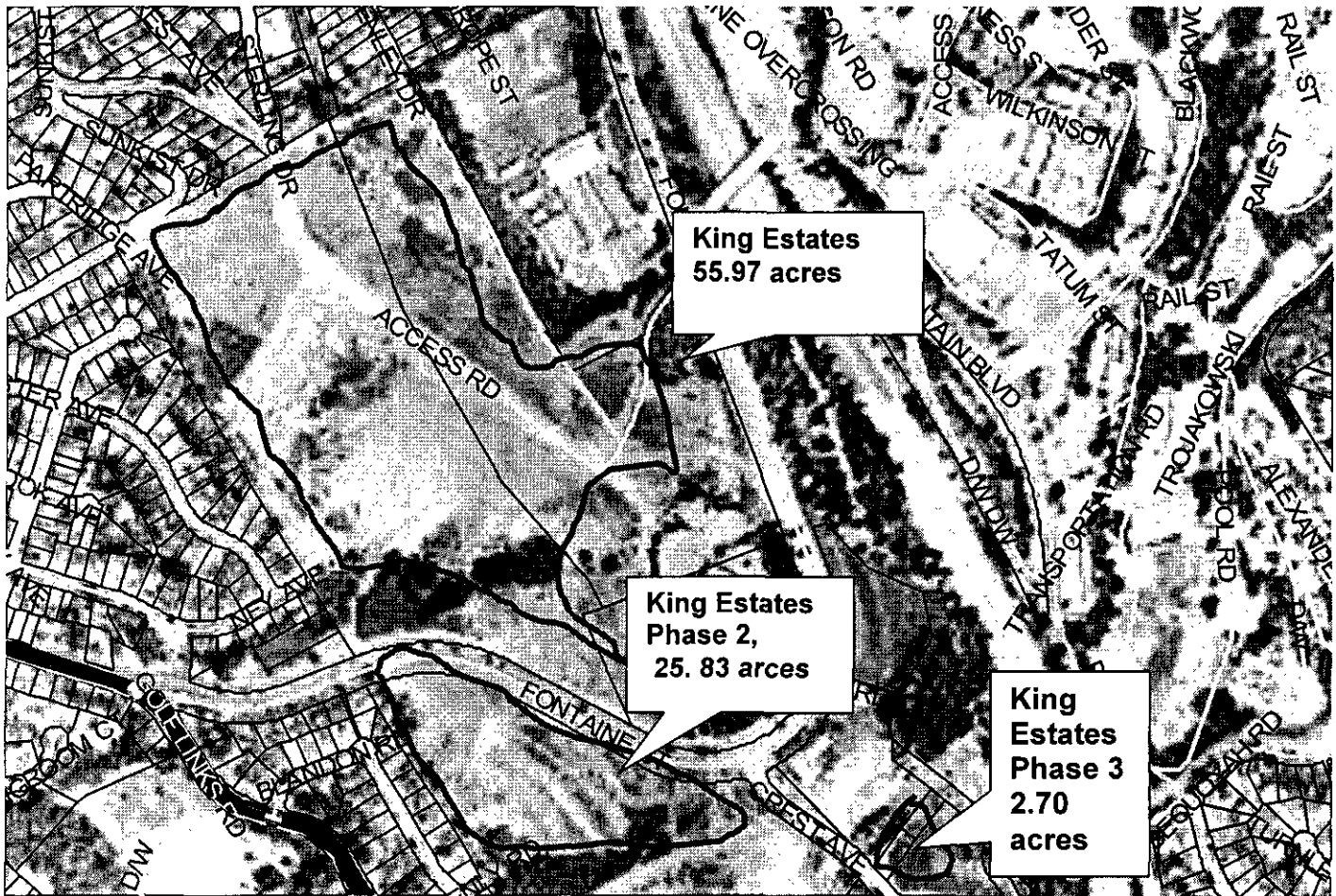
DANIEL D. FARRELL, Fire Chief

Reviewed by: James A. Williams
Deputy Chief / Fire Marshal

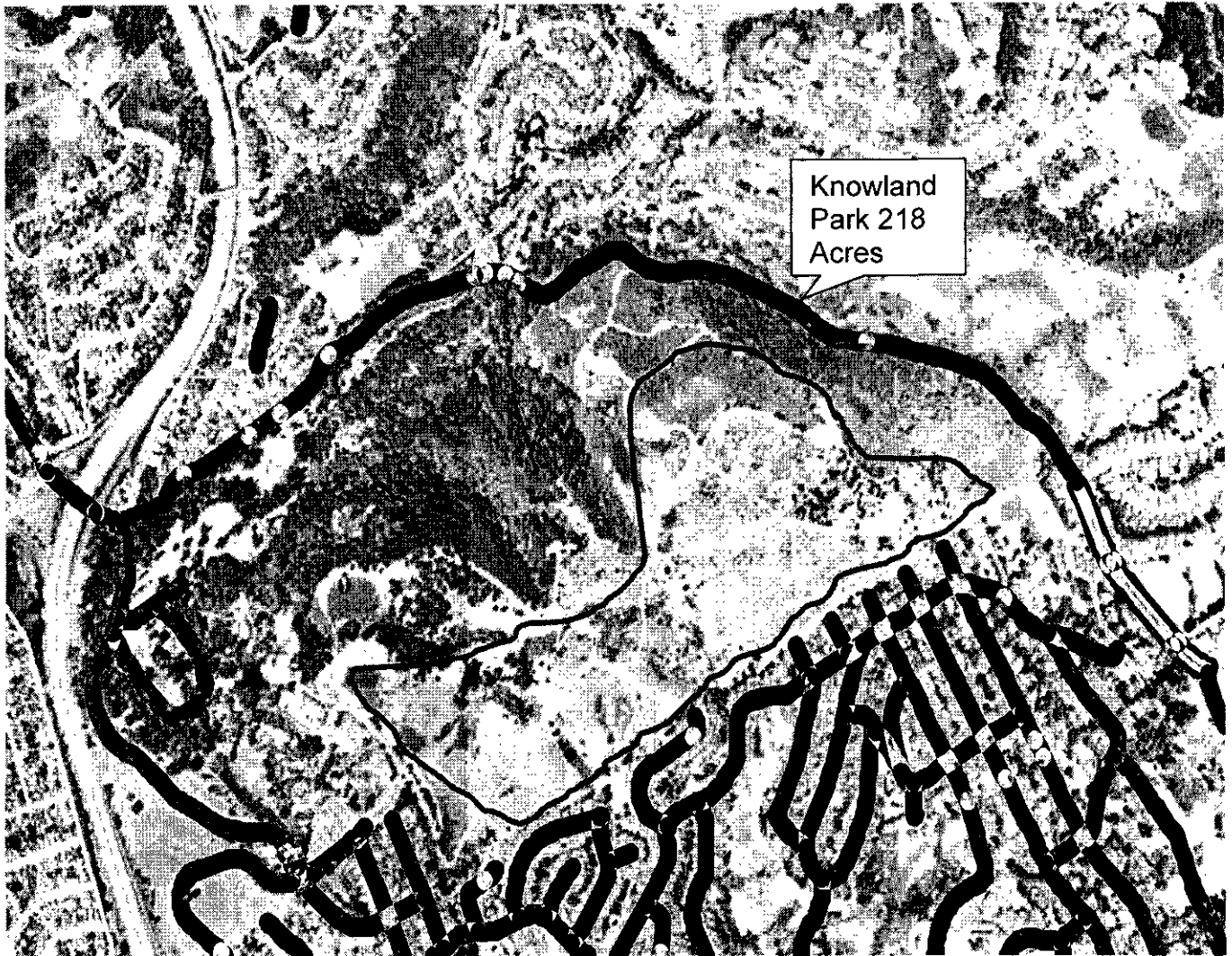
Prepared by: Leroy Griffin
Assistant Fire Marshal

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL

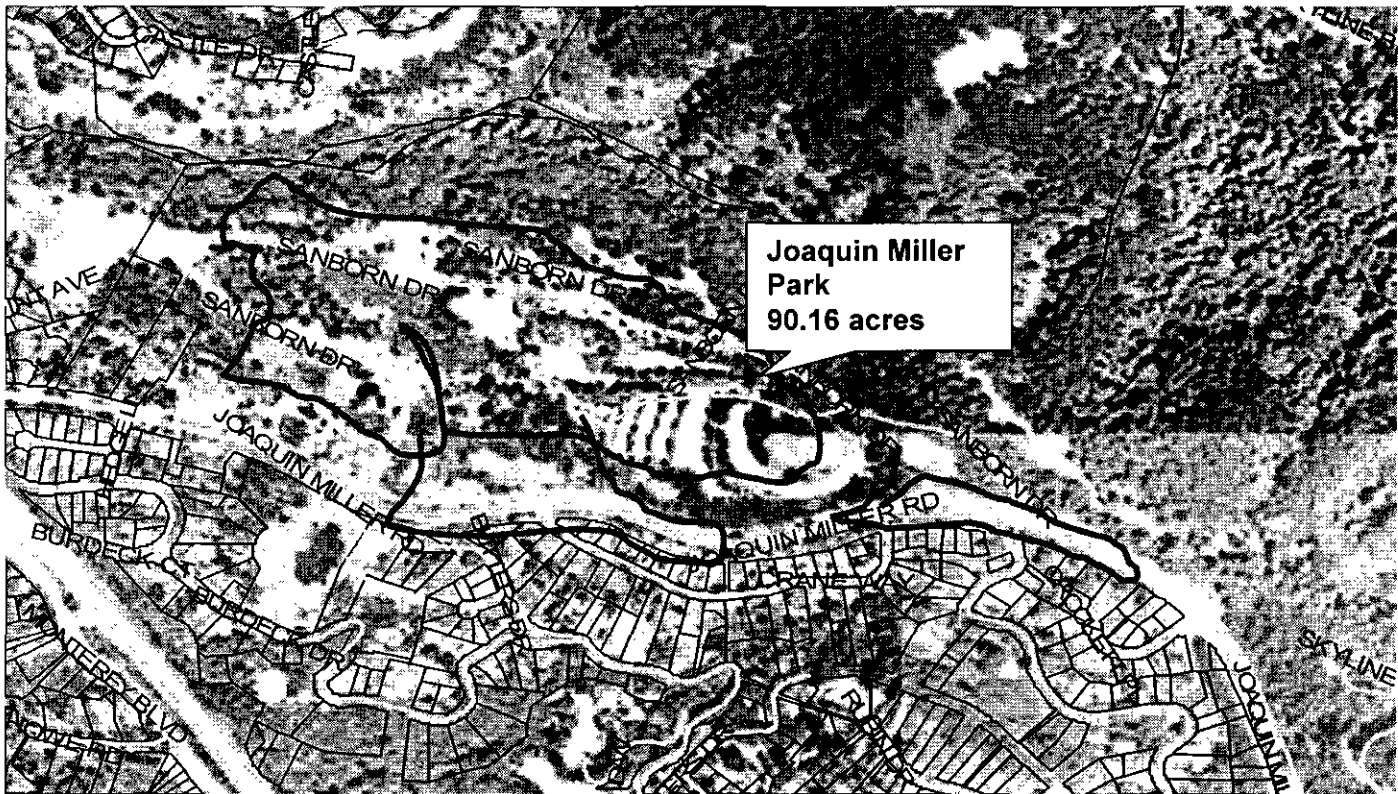

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR



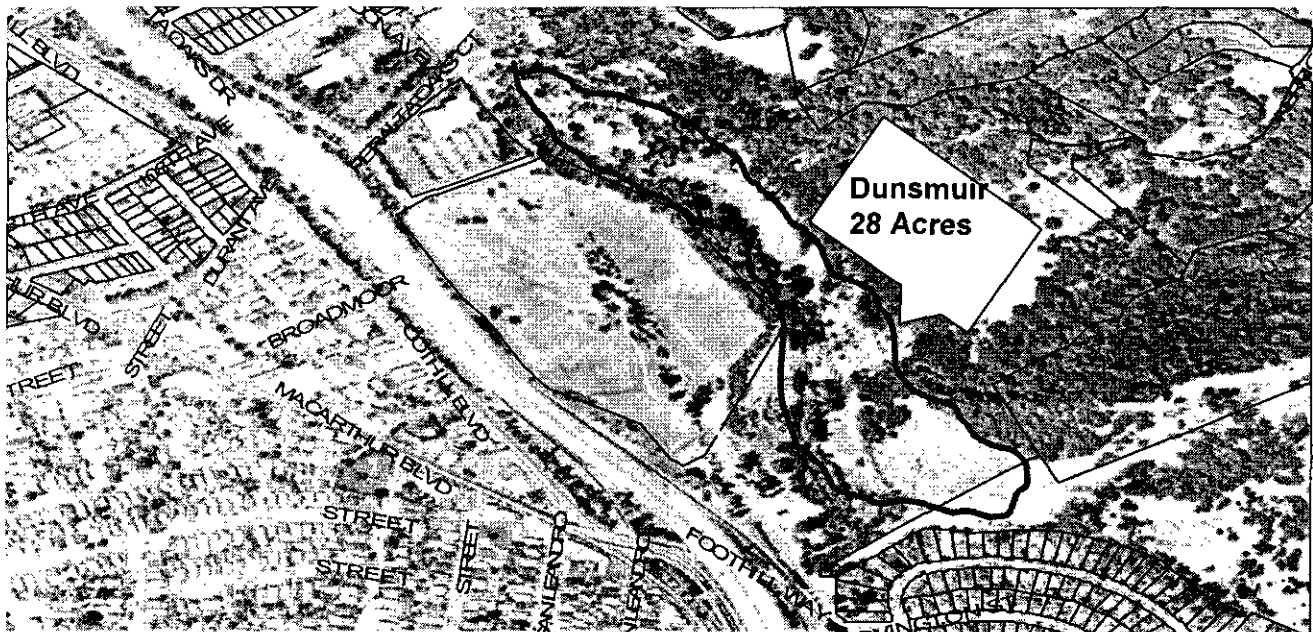
**King Estates/ Glen Daniels Park
Map 1**



*Knowland Park
Map 2*



Joaquin Miller Park
Map 3



Dunsmuir Estates
Map 4

