



# City of Woodland

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Contract Extension for Professional Services with H.T. Harvey & Associates for the Spring Lake Specific Plan Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program

### **Report in Brief**

Development of the Spring Lake Specific Plan (SLSP) Project created a requirement to mitigate for the loss of Swainson's Hawk foraging habitat (SLSP Mitigation Monitoring Plan) and to conduct a fifteen-year biological monitoring program for Swainson's Hawk habitat conservation easements. As part of the settlement (July 23, 2002 Settlement Agreement) for a lawsuit filed against the City as a result of its approval of the project, the City agreed to establish a Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program for the habitat conservation easements required for development of the SLSP. Since 2005, H.T. Harvey & Associates has conducted the monitoring for the Swainson's Hawk conservation easements under an initial two-year contract with the City.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a two-year contract extension for Professional Services with H.T. Harvey and Associates for the SLSP Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program and authorize staff to approve future extensions of the contract as long as the contract terms remain the same.

### **Background**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis of the SLSP identified the loss of Swainson's Hawk foraging habitat. As a result, the SLSP Mitigation Monitoring Plan requires the purchase and establishment of habitat conservation easements to mitigate for the loss of the foraging habitat and the City as part of a legal settlement agreed to establish a Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program. The City's 2005 contract with H.T. Harvey for the Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring covered the Merritt Ranch and Heidrick Property, where Swainson's Hawk habitat conservation easements were purchased and established. Both areas are located south of the City. Merritt is generally bordered by County Road 27 on the north, State Highway 113 on the west, and Willow Slough on the south and east. Heidrick is south of County Road 27, bordered by Willow Slough on the west, north of County Road 29, and bordered by County Road 102 on the east. The City awarded a contract to H.T. Harvey after issuing an RFP for the Swainson's Hawk Biological

Monitoring. Total compensation for the proposed contract extension is \$10,000 annually without the City's prior written approval and will again cover the Merritt Ranch and Heidrick Property. The initial contract with H.T. Harvey contained a provision providing for a contract extension provided that both parties, the City and H.T. Harvey, mutually agreed to the extension.

**Discussion**

The City chose to hire a consulting firm to conduct the Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring since it does not have the staff expertise to perform this type of work. H.T. Harvey has designed and implemented more than 50 long-term monitoring projects and has employed an ornithologist to conduct the Swainson's Hawk surveys at the Merritt Ranch and Heidrick Property.

**Fiscal Impact**

The City will not incur a fiscal impact as the SLSP Developers are funding the \$150,000 Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program as part of the Spring Lake Infrastructure Fee Program.

**Public Contact**

Posting of the City Council Agenda.

**Recommendation for Action**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a two-year contract extension for Professional Services with H.T. Harvey and Associates for the Spring Lake Specific Plan Swainson's Hawk Biological Monitoring Program.

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**Attachment**

Contract Extension with H.T. Harvey & Associates