



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM
Department of General Services
Parks & Conservation Resources

Date: August 20, 2019
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator
Kevin Kirwin, Director Parks & Conservation Resources
From: Beth Powell, Assistant Director Parks & Conservation Resources
Subject: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding Award for the Countywide Wildfire Mitigation Plan: Contract Number H0259, Project Number 4283-95-R

DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS

On February 8, 2017, the Florida Division of Emergency Management announced the availability of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds resulting from the Presidential Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Matthew (FEMA 4283-DR-FL). The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is to assist communities in implementing hazard mitigation measures following a major federal disaster declaration. The HMGP program is a federally funded program that is allocated and distributed by the State.

HMGP is a cost-reimbursement grant program and will fund up to 75% for eligible projects. The 25% match may be a combination of cash and in-kind sources. Hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long term risk to people and property from natural hazards. Indian River County is an eligible applicant as it has a FEMA-approved local mitigation plan and has a formally adopted Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) (Resolution No. 2010-059 adopted on July 13, 2010, and revised Resolution No. 2015-078 adopted July 7, 2015).

On June 6, 2017, staff presented two Hazard Mitigation Program Grant funding applications and received authorization from the Board of County Commissioners to submit both the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area Wildfire Mitigation application and the Countywide Wildfire Mitigation application. On January 23, 2018, the Board further authorized staff to complete a Pre-Award Cost Request that included hiring Environmental Science Associates, Inc. to complete the Indian River County Countywide Wildfire Management Plan: 2018 Fuel Management Plan, dated March 2018 (Wildfire Plan), a copy of which is available on file at the Indian River County Clerk's office. This Wildfire Plan was necessary to complete the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in order to award the Hazard Mitigation Grant.

THE PROJECT:

On June 27, 2019, staff was notified that Indian River County was awarded the final FEMA approval for the Countrywide Wildfire Mitigation, application number 4283-95-R. The scope of work includes providing wildfire mitigation activities on 10 conservation areas throughout the County as identified in the Wildfire Plan. Work completed to reduce wildfire threat will include mechanical treatment, installation of firebreaks and prescribed burns as described in the Wildfire Plan. This work may be completed utilizing private contractors and the Florida Forest Service. The County will have until March 31, 2021, to complete wildfire mitigation activities on the conservation areas identified in the grant award. The conservation areas funded for wildfire mitigation under this grant include:

- Sebastian Scrub Conservation Area
- 58th Avenue Conservation Area
- South Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area
- Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area
- Hallstrom Farmstead Conservation Area
- North Sebastian Conservation Area
- Sebastian Harbor Preserve
- South County Park
- Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area
- Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area

FUNDING:

Funding for this project includes a federal share of \$210,565.50 with a County match of \$70,188.50, for a total project cost of \$280,754.00. The pre-award cost of completing the Wildfire Plan was \$38,150 which will be included in the match/reimbursement, leaving the County’s commitment of funding of \$32,038.50 for project implementation. Staff recommends utilizing the Native Upland Mitigation Fund (12721037-033490) as the match.

HMGP Funding/FEMA Federal Match	FEMA-DR-4283-FL Award		\$210,565.50
Pre-Award Authorization – Previously Expended	Environmental Science Associates, Inc. – IRC Countywide Wildfire Mitigation Plan	Native Upland Mitigation Fund/Other Contractual Services 12721037-033490	\$38,150.00
Remaining County Match	Contract Work – Mitigation Activities	Native Upland Mitigation Fund/Other Contractual Services 12721037-033490	\$32,038.50
TOTAL:			\$280,754.00

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board of County Commissioners accept Agreement Number H0259 for Project Number 4283-95-R: Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement for the Indian River County Countywide Wildfire Mitigation, and authorize the Chairman to execute the Grant Agreement, and return the package to Parks & Conservation, Assistant Director. Staff will transmit the partially executed agreement to the State for final signatures. Upon receipt of the fully executed original agreement from the State, staff will transmit to the Clerk to the Indian River County Board of County Commission for permanent record. Staff further recommends that the Board direct staff to utilize the Native Upland Mitigation Fund as the County's match.

ATTACHMENT

- Indian River County Project Number 4283-95-R Wildfire Mitigation Sub Grant: Contract Number H0259
- IRC Grant Form

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPTEMBER 10, 2019