



March 24, 2009

Board of Directors
Marin County Open Space District
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, California 94903

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE
AGREEMENT WITH PRBO CONSERVATION SCIENCE IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$47,000 FOR ANNUAL SPOTTED OWL
MONITORING SERVICES AND A BIRD SPECIES DISTRIBUTION
STUDY.**

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize President to execute the agreement.

SUMMARY: The Board's approval of the attached agreement would permit implementation of two key projects with PRBO (Point Reyes Bird Observatory) Conservation Science. PRBO has been monitoring the District's endangered Northern Spotted Owl population for nearly a decade. Monitoring Spotted Owls in Marin County during the breeding season is essential to evaluate the population's health and to ensure that management activities do not negatively impact owls.

The Predictive Bird Modeling Project is based on groundbreaking work that PRBO recently completed at Point Reyes National Seashore. Using the District-wide vegetation map that was completed in 2008, as well as new bird survey data, PRBO would create a computer model that predicts bird species distribution throughout the District's 16,000 acre open space system. This information would inform staff of potential impacts related to use of District lands and ongoing maintenance. It will also be utilized to develop internal resource management plans and to develop the Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding is available in the Open Space District's current year budget. Of the \$47,000 contract amount, \$5,000 would be paid by the Marin Municipal Water District.

REVIEWED BY:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Auditor-Controller	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A

Resource Specialist Matt Sagues is the principal author of this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Miska
Deputy Director

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Amy Zhuang
Parks and Open Space Commission
Press