



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001063

MEETING DATE: 05/19/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: OC Community Resources

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Dylan Wright, 714-480-2788
Pam Passow, 714-973-6650

SUBJECT: Renewal of Contract with University of California for Mountain Lion Services

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve agreement to form	DISCUSSION
		3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	Current Year Cost: N/A	Annual Cost: FY 2026–27 \$114,516 FY 2027–28 \$120,000 FY 2028–29 \$5,484
Staffing Impact: No	Funding Source: OC Parks Fund 405: 100%	Sole Source: Yes
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A		County Audit in Last 3 years: No

Levine Act Review

Completed? Yes

Prior Board Action: 7/18/2023 #13

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute Amendment No. One to renew contract with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its Davis Campus Wildlife Health Center, for mountain lion consultation services, for an additional two-year term, effective July 18, 2026, through July 17, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000 with a cumulative total of \$600,000.

SUMMARY:

Renewal of the contract with The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its Davis Campus Wildlife Health Center, will continue as-needed consultation, research and monitoring of mountain lion behavior in County parks and allow OC Community Resources/OC Parks to evaluate and implement park management decisions aligned with wildlife best management practices.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The OC Community Resources/OC Parks (OCCR/OC Parks) system includes several regional and wilderness facilities that provide habitat to a large variety of native wildlife, including mountain lions, which are the largest native carnivore in Orange County. Although these animals are typically reclusive, increased park usage and expansion over the last 20 years has created a greater potential for interactions between the public and wildlife.

The University of California, Davis Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center (UCD-WHC) has conducted mountain lion research in Southern California for the last 20 years, under the direction of mountain lion researchers, Dr. T. Winston Vickers and most recently Dr. Fernando Nájera. Prior mountain lion research conducted by UCD-WHC has provided an enhanced level of understanding of mountain lion behavior throughout Orange County and where patterns of use may overlap spatially and temporally.

On July 18, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved sole source Contract MA-012-23011571 (Contract) with the Regents of the University of California, on behalf of UCD-WHC, for on-call mountain lion consultation services (Services) effective July 18, 2023, through July 17, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000 annually and \$360,000 cumulatively, with the option to extend for two additional years. This Contract includes a subcontractor. See Attachment B for information regarding subcontractors and Contract Summary Form.

Services under the Contract are on an as-needed basis and include consultation regarding mountain lion activity, development of a long-term coordinated data set of mountain lion detections, generation of reports regarding mountain lion activity, and mountain lion best management practice trainings for OCCR/OC Parks staff. These services will provide OCCR/OC Parks with more information on mountain lion behavior in relation to human activity and assist park staff with making informed management decisions that balance public access with the conservation of mountain lions.

OCCR/OC Parks is requesting Board approval for Amendment No. One (Amendment) to renew the Contract for Services, for an additional two-year term, effective July 18, 2026, through July 17, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, consistent with prior Contract years, for a revised cumulative total amount not to exceed \$600,000.

The Amendment renews a sole source contract as Dr. T. Winston Vickers and his team of UCD-WHC biologists possess expertise in the field of mountain lion research. Over the last 20 years, UCD-WHC has devoted significant efforts to studying mountain lions in the Orange County region and possess unparalleled institutional knowledge of Orange County landscape-specific mountain behavior. Given their extensive experience monitoring local wildlife behavior, UCD-WHC is uniquely positioned to support OC Parks in responding to interactions between mountain lions and humans within OCCR/OC Parks facilities.

The Contractor's performance has been confirmed as satisfactory. OCCR/OC Parks has verified there are no concerns that must be addressed with respect to Contractor's ownership/name, litigation status or conflicts with County interests. An analysis was completed to verify the contract provides County with persons specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services in accordance with the law. The Orange County Preference Policy is not applicable to this Contract renewal.

Compliance with CEQA: The proposed project was previously determined to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15306 (Class 6) of the CEQA Guidelines, on July 18, 2023, when it was originally approved, because it provides for the basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. The proposed project is still consistent with this determination.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for this Amendment will be included in OC Parks Fund 405 FY 2026–27 Budget and will be included in the budgeting process for future years.

The Contract includes a provision stating the Contract is subject to, and contingent upon, applicable budgetary appropriations approved by the Board for each fiscal year during the term of this Contract. If such appropriations are not approved, this Contract may be immediately terminated or modified without penalty to the County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - Amendment No. One to MA-012-23011571

Attachment B - Contract Summary Form