



## **MEMORANDUM REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2019

**TO:** Board of Commissioners of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District

**FROM:** Jen Beyers, Esq. (Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel)

**SUBJECT:** Goat Services for Fire Fuel Reduction

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt Resolution No. 19-11 Authorizing Execution of Professional Services Agreement for Fire Fuel Reduction Goat Grazing Services between the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and Ecosystem Concepts, Inc.

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### **BACKGROUND**

Historically, the grazing of fields by goats was used as a method of vegetation mitigation and fire fuel management. Commencing in 2006, Ecosystem Concepts Inc. (“ECI”) provided goat grazing services to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (“District”) to mitigate vegetation for fire fuel reduction in difficult to reach terrain such as the Byrne Preserve. This effort resulted in significant decrease of vegetative mass thus creating desirable fire breaks.

### **DISCUSSION**

The District and ECI engaged in conversations to develop a service plan, timetable and terms of an agreement for ECI’s services in late spring of 2019. District staff reached out to agencies within the Fire District to discuss ECI’s services and determine if other public areas would benefit from such services. After consultation with those agencies and with ECI, it was determined that, for now, the District should enter into an agreement with ECI to continue to service the area at Byrne Preserve that has historically been serviced by ECI. The District is also working with the Town of Los Altos Hills for assistance to ensure that the goats will not have access to the sensitive restoration areas of Byrne Preserve.

The proposed Professional Services Agreement for Fire Fuel Reduction Goat Grazing Services between the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and Ecosystem Concepts, Inc. (“Agreement”) provides that the service will commence in May 2019 and shall be completed before the end of June 2019. The services that will be provided under the Agreement include a minimum of eight (8) days of goat grazing by a minimum of four hundred (400) goats to graze an approximately five thousand (5,000)-foot long, thirty (30)-foot wide fire break.

Adoption of Resolution No. 19-11 approves the Agreement and authorizes the District President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District.

**Attachment:** None