

Standard Professional Services Agreement (“PSA”)

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

This agreement ("Agreement"), dated as of _____, 20__ (“Effective Date”) is by and between the County of Sonoma, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter "County"), and _____, a public entity (hereinafter "Consultant").

R E C I T A L S

WHEREAS, County has adopted Chapter 13A of the Sonoma County Code entitled, “Duty to Maintain Defensible Space and Abate Hazardous Vegetation and Combustible Material.”

WHEREAS, pursuant to authority conferred in Chapter 13A, Sections 13A-3 and 13A-5 of the Sonoma County Code, the County Fire Marshal can delegate to Chiefs of local Fire Protection Districts the authority to enforce Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A within the territory of their Fire Protection District.

WHEREAS, the County Fire Marshal deems it is advisable to delegate such authority to the Chief of _____ to conduct inspections of properties within the territory of _____ for compliance with the County’s Chapter 13A pursuant to Section 13A-5 and 13A-7 within their jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the Chief of _____ is willing to accept the above described delegation on the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Consultant represents that it is a duly qualified fire prevention and fire response professional, experienced in the enforcement of vegetation management and defensible space laws and related services; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Sonoma County Fire Marshal, it is necessary and desirable to employ the services of Consultant to enforce Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A vegetation management and defensible space requirements in the _____ jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

A G R E E M E N T

1. Scope of Services.

1.1 Consultant's Specified Services.

Consultant shall perform the services described in Exhibit "A," attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (hereinafter "Scope of Work"), and within the times or by the dates provided for in Exhibit "A" and pursuant to Article 7, Prosecution of Work. In the event of a conflict between the body of this Agreement and Exhibit "A", the provisions in the body of this Agreement shall control.

1.2 Cooperation With County. Consultant shall cooperate with County and County staff in the performance of all work hereunder.

1.3 Performance Standard. Consultant shall perform all work hereunder in a manner consistent with the level of competency and standard of care normally observed by a person practicing in Consultant's profession. County has relied upon the professional ability and training of Consultant as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. Consultant hereby agrees to provide all services under this Agreement in accordance with generally accepted professional practices and standards of care, as well as the requirements of applicable federal, state and local laws, it being understood that acceptance of Contractor's work by County shall not operate as a waiver or release. If County determines that any of Consultant's work is not in accordance with such level of competency and standard of care, County, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to do any or all of the following: (a) require Consultant to meet with County to review the quality of the work and resolve matters of concern; (b) require Consultant to repeat the work at no additional charge until it is satisfactory; (c) terminate this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 4; or (d) pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity.

1.4 Assigned Personnel.

- a. Consultant shall assign only competent personnel to perform work hereunder. In the event that at any time County, in its sole discretion, desires the removal of any person or persons assigned by Consultant to perform work hereunder, Consultant shall remove such person or persons immediately upon receiving written notice from County.
- b. Any and all persons identified in this Agreement or any exhibit hereto as the project manager, project team, or other professional performing work hereunder are deemed by County to be key personnel whose services were a material inducement to County to enter into this Agreement, and without whose services County would not have entered into this Agreement. Consultant shall not remove, replace, substitute, or otherwise change any key personnel without the prior written consent of County.
- c. In the event that any of Consultant's personnel assigned to perform services under this Agreement become unavailable due to resignation, sickness or other factors outside of Consultant's control, Consultant shall be responsible for timely provision of adequately qualified replacements.

2. Payment.

Consultant shall be paid on a time and material/expense basis in accordance at the rate of \$ _____ per hour, provided, however, that total payments to Consultant shall not exceed \$ _____, without the prior written approval of County. Consultant shall submit its bills in arrears on a monthly basis in a form approved by County's Auditor and the Fire Marshal receiving the services. The bills shall show or include: (i) the task(s) performed; (ii) the time in quarter hours devoted to the task(s); (iii) the hourly rate or rates of the persons performing the task(s); and (iv) copies of receipts for reimbursable materials/expenses, if any. Expenses not expressly authorized by the Agreement shall not be reimbursed. Should Consultant propose a project with respect to hazardous vegetation fuels removal, Consultant may also engage a subcontractor to perform such services subject to the prior approval of the Sonoma County Fire Marshal. Consultant shall comply with all procurement rules for selection of any subcontractor to perform such services.

Unless otherwise noted in this Agreement, payments shall be made within the normal course of County business after presentation of an invoice in a form approved by the County for services performed. Payments shall be made only upon the satisfactory completion of the services as determined by the County.

Pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation code (R&TC) Section 18662, the County shall withhold seven percent of the income paid to Consultant for services performed within the State of California under this agreement, for payment and reporting to the California Franchise Tax Board, if Consultant does not qualify as: (1) a corporation with its principal place of business in California, (2) an LLC or Partnership with a permanent place of business in California, (3) a corporation/LLC or Partnership qualified to do business in California by the Secretary of State, or (4) an individual with a permanent residence in the State of California.

If Consultant does not qualify, County requires that a completed and signed Form 587 be provided by the Consultant in order for payments to be made. If Consultant is qualified, then the County requires a completed Form 590. Forms 587 and 590 remain valid for the duration of the Agreement provided there is no material change in facts. By signing either form, the Consultant agrees to promptly notify the County of any changes in the facts. Forms should be sent to the County pursuant to Article 12. To reduce the amount withheld, Consultant has the option to provide County with either a full or partial waiver from the State of California.

3. Term of Agreement. The term of this Agreement shall be from "Effective Date" to _____ unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 below.
4. Termination.

4.1 Termination Without Cause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, at any time and without cause, County shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement by giving 5 days written notice to Consultant.

4.2 Termination for Cause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, should Consultant fail to perform any of its obligations hereunder, within the time and in the manner herein provided, or otherwise violate any of the terms of this Agreement, County may immediately terminate this Agreement by giving Consultant written notice of such termination, stating the reason for termination.

4.3 Delivery of Work Product and Final Payment Upon Termination.

In the event of termination, Consultant, within 14 days following the date of termination, shall deliver to County all reports, original drawings, graphics, plans, studies, and other data or documents, in whatever form or format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement and shall submit to County an invoice showing the services performed, hours worked, and copies of receipts for reimbursable expenses up to the date of termination.

4.4 Payment Upon Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement by County, Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment for all services satisfactorily rendered and reimbursable expenses properly incurred hereunder, an amount which bears the same ratio to the total payment specified in the Agreement as the services satisfactorily rendered hereunder by Consultant bear to the total services otherwise required to be performed for such total payment; provided, however, that if services which have been satisfactorily rendered are to be paid on a per-hour or per-day basis, Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment an amount equal to the number of hours or days actually worked prior to the termination times the applicable hourly or daily rate; and further provided, however, that if County terminates the Agreement for cause pursuant to Section 4.2, County shall deduct from such amount the amount of damage, if any, sustained by County by virtue of the breach of the Agreement by Consultant.

4.5 Authority to Terminate. The Board of Supervisors has the authority to terminate this Agreement on behalf of the County. In addition, the Purchasing Agent or Fire Marshal, in consultation with County Counsel, shall have the authority to terminate this Agreement on behalf of the County.

5. Indemnification. Consultant agrees to accept all responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, including County, and to indemnify, hold harmless, and release County, its officers, agents, and employees, from and against any actions, claims, damages, liabilities, disabilities, or expenses, that may be asserted by any person or entity, including Consultant, that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to Consultant's or its agents', employees', contractors', subcontractors', or invitees' performance or obligations under this Agreement. Consultant agrees to provide a complete defense for any claim or action brought against County based upon a claim relating to such Consultant's or its agents', employees', contractors', subcontractors', or invitees' performance or obligations under this Agreement. Consultant's obligations under this Section apply whether or not there is concurrent or contributory negligence on County's part, but to the extent required by law, excluding liability due to County's conduct. County shall have the right to select its legal counsel at Consultant's expense, subject to Consultant's approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. This indemnification obligation is not limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages or compensation payable to or for Consultant or

its agents under workers' compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts.

6. Insurance. With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Consultant shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain, insurance as described in Exhibit B, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

7. Prosecution of Work. The execution of this Agreement shall constitute Consultant's authority to proceed immediately with the performance of this Agreement. Performance of the services hereunder shall be completed within the time required herein, provided, however, that if the performance is delayed by earthquake, flood, high water, or other Act of God or by strike, lockout, or similar labor disturbances, the time for Consultant's performance of this Agreement shall be extended by a number of days equal to the number of days Consultant has been delayed.

8. Extra or Changed Work. Extra or changed work or other changes to the Agreement may be authorized only by written amendment to this Agreement, signed by both parties. Changes which do not exceed the delegated signature authority of the Department may be executed by the Department Head in a form approved by County Counsel. The Board of Supervisors or Purchasing Agent must authorize all other extra or changed work which exceeds the delegated signature authority of the Department Head. The parties expressly recognize that, pursuant to Sonoma County Code Section 1-11, County personnel are without authorization to order extra or changed work or waive Agreement requirements. Failure of Consultant to secure such written authorization for extra or changed work shall constitute a waiver of any and all right to adjustment in the Agreement price or Agreement time due to such unauthorized work and thereafter Consultant shall be entitled to no compensation whatsoever for the performance of such work. Consultant further expressly waives any and all right or remedy by way of restitution and quantum meruit for any and all extra work performed without such express and prior written authorization of the County.

9. Representations of Consultant.

9.1 Standard of Care. County has relied upon the professional ability and training of Consultant as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. Consultant hereby agrees that all its work will be performed and that its operations shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted and applicable professional practices and standards as well as the requirements of applicable federal, state and local laws, it being understood that acceptance of Consultant's work by County shall not operate as a waiver or release.

9.2 Status of Consultant. The parties intend that Consultant, in performing the services specified herein, shall act as an independent contractor and shall control the work and the manner in which it is performed. Consultant is not to be considered an agent or employee of County and is not entitled to participate in any pension plan, worker's compensation plan, insurance, bonus, or similar benefits County provides its employees. In the event County exercises its right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 4, above, Consultant

expressly agrees that it shall have no recourse or right of appeal under rules, regulations, ordinances, or laws applicable to employees.

9.3 No Suspension or Debarment. Consultant warrants that it is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in covered transactions by any federal department or agency. Consultant also warrants that it is not suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds as listed in the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Non-procurement Programs issued by the General Services Administration. If the Consultant becomes debarred, consultant has the obligation to inform the County

9.4 Taxes. Consultant agrees to file federal and state tax returns and pay all applicable taxes on amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement and shall be solely liable and responsible to pay such taxes and other obligations, including, but not limited to, state and federal income and FICA taxes. Consultant agrees to indemnify and hold County harmless from any liability which it may incur to the United States or to the State of California as a consequence of Consultant's failure to pay, when due, all such taxes and obligations. In case County is audited for compliance regarding any withholding or other applicable taxes, Consultant agrees to furnish County with proof of payment of taxes on these earnings.

9.5 Records Maintenance. Consultant shall keep and maintain full and complete documentation and accounting records concerning all services performed that are compensable under this Agreement and shall make such documents and records available to County for inspection at any reasonable time. Consultant shall maintain such records for a period of four (4) years following completion of work hereunder.

9.6 Conflict of Interest. Consultant covenants that it presently has no interest and that it will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that represents a financial conflict of interest under state law or that would otherwise conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. Consultant further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having any such interests shall be employed. In addition, if requested to do so by County, Consultant shall complete and file and shall require any other person doing work under this Agreement to complete and file a "Statement of Economic Interest" with County disclosing Consultant's or such other person's financial interests.

9.7 Statutory Compliance/Living Wage Ordinance. Consultant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, statutes and policies, including but not limited to the County of Sonoma Living Wage Ordinance, applicable to the services provided under this Agreement as they exist now and as they are changed, amended or modified during the term of this Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Consultant expressly acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement may be subject to the provisions of Article XXVI of Chapter 2 of the Sonoma County Code, requiring payment of a living wage to covered employees. Noncompliance during the term of the Agreement will be considered a material breach and may result in termination of the Agreement or pursuit of other legal or administrative remedies.

9.8 Nondiscrimination. Without limiting any other provision hereunder, Consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in regard to nondiscrimination in employment because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, medical condition, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation or other prohibited basis, including without limitation, the County's Non-Discrimination Policy. All nondiscrimination rules or regulations required by law to be included in this Agreement are incorporated herein by this reference.

9.9 AIDS Discrimination. Consultant agrees to comply with the provisions of Chapter 19, Article II, of the Sonoma County Code prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and services because of AIDS or HIV infection during the term of this Agreement and any extensions of the term.

9.10 Assignment of Rights. Consultant assigns to County all rights throughout the world in perpetuity in the nature of copyright, trademark, patent, right to ideas, in and to all versions of the plans and specifications, if any, now or later prepared by Consultant in connection with this Agreement. Consultant agrees to take such actions as are necessary to protect the rights assigned to County in this Agreement, and to refrain from taking any action which would impair those rights. Consultant's responsibilities under this provision include, but are not limited to, placing proper notice of copyright on all versions of the plans and specifications as County may direct, and refraining from disclosing any versions of the plans and specifications to any third party without first obtaining written permission of County. Consultant shall not use or permit another to use the plans and specifications in connection with this or any other project without first obtaining written permission of County.

9.11 Ownership of Work Product. All reports, drawings, graphics, plans, and studies, in their final form and format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement, shall be the property of County. Consultant shall deliver such materials to County upon request in their final form and format. Such materials shall be and will remain the property of County without restriction or limitation. Document drafts, notes, and emails of the Consultant and Consultant's subcontractors, consultants, and other agents shall remain the property of those persons or entities.

9.12 Authority. The undersigned hereby represents and warrants that he or she has authority to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of Consultant.

10. Demand for Assurance. Each party to this Agreement undertakes the obligation that the other's expectation of receiving due performance will not be impaired. When reasonable grounds for insecurity arise with respect to the performance of either party, the other may in writing demand adequate assurance of due performance and until such assurance is received may, if commercially reasonable, suspend any performance for which the agreed return has not been received. "Commercially reasonable" includes not only the conduct of a party with respect to performance under this Agreement, but also conduct with respect to other agreements with parties to this Agreement or others. After receipt of a justified demand, failure to provide within a reasonable time, but not exceeding thirty (30) days, such assurance of due performance as is

adequate under the circumstances of the particular case is a repudiation of this Agreement. Acceptance of any improper delivery, service, or payment does not prejudice the aggrieved party's right to demand adequate assurance of future performance. Nothing in this Article limits County's right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 4.

11. Assignment and Delegation. Neither party hereto shall assign, delegate, sublet, or transfer any interest in or duty under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other, and no such transfer shall be of any force or effect whatsoever unless and until the other party shall have so consented.

12. Method and Place of Giving Notice, Submitting Bills and Making Payments. All notices, bills, and payments shall be made in writing and shall be given by personal delivery or by U.S. Mail or courier service. Notices, bills, and payments shall be addressed as follows:

TO: COUNTY:

Permit Sonoma
Attn: Fire Marshal
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

TO: CONSULTANT:

When a notice, bill or payment is given by a generally recognized overnight courier service, the notice, bill or payment shall be deemed received on the next business day. When a copy of a notice, bill or payment is sent by facsimile or email, the notice, bill or payment shall be deemed received upon transmission as long as (1) the original copy of the notice, bill or payment is promptly deposited in the U.S. mail and postmarked on the date of the facsimile or email (for a payment, on or before the due date), (2) the sender has a written confirmation of the facsimile transmission or email, and (3) the facsimile or email is transmitted before 5 p.m. (recipient's time). In all other instances, notices, bills and payments shall be effective upon receipt by the recipient. Changes may be made in the names and addresses of the person to whom notices are to be given by giving notice pursuant to this paragraph.

13. Miscellaneous Provisions.

13.1 No Waiver of Breach. The waiver by County of any breach of any term or promise contained in this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such term or provision or any subsequent breach of the same or any other term or promise contained in this Agreement.

13.2 Construction. To the fullest extent allowed by law, the provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and given effect in a manner that avoids any violation of statute, ordinance, regulation, or law. The parties covenant and agree that in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void,

or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated thereby. Consultant and County acknowledge that they have each contributed to the making of this Agreement and that, in the event of a dispute over the interpretation of this Agreement, the language of the Agreement will not be construed against one party in favor of the other. Consultant and County acknowledge that they have each had an adequate opportunity to consult with counsel in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement.

13.3 Consent. Wherever in this Agreement the consent or approval of one party is required to an act of the other party, such consent or approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

13.4 No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create and the parties do not intend to create any rights in third parties.

13.5 Applicable Law and Forum. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted according to the substantive law of California, regardless of the law of conflicts to the contrary in any jurisdiction. Any action to enforce the terms of this Agreement or for the breach thereof shall be brought and tried in Santa Rosa or the forum nearest to the city of Santa Rosa, in the County of Sonoma.

13.6 Captions. The captions in this Agreement are solely for convenience of reference. They are not a part of this Agreement and shall have no effect on its construction or interpretation.

13.7 Merger. This writing is intended both as the final expression of the Agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the included terms and as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the Agreement, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856. No modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless and until such modification is evidenced by a writing signed by both parties.

13.8. Survival of Terms. All express representations, waivers, indemnifications, and limitations of liability included in this Agreement will survive its completion or termination for any reason.

13.9 Time of Essence. Time is and shall be of the essence of this Agreement and every provision hereof.

13.10. Counterpart; Electronic Signatures. The parties agree that this Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and together which when executed by the requisite parties shall be deemed to be a complete original agreement. Counterparts may be delivered via facsimile, electronic mail (including PDF) or other transmission method, and any counterpart so delivered shall be deemed to have been duly and validly delivered, be valid and effective for all purposes, and shall have the same legal force and effect as an original document. This Agreement, and any counterpart, may be electronically signed by each or any of the parties through the use of any commercially available digital and/or electronic signature software or other electronic signature method in compliance with the U.S. federal E-SIGN Act of 2000, California's Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (Cal. Civil Code §

1633.1 et seq.), or other applicable law. By its use of any electronic signature below, the signing party agrees to have conducted this transaction and to execution of this Agreement by electronic means.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

CONSULTANT: _____

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

COUNTY: COUNTY OF SONOMA

CERTIFICATES OF
INSURANCE REVIEWED, ON
FILE, AND APPROVED AS TO
SUBSTANCE FOR COUNTY:

By: _____
Department Director or Designee

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR
COUNTY:

By: _____
County Counsel

Date: _____

EXECUTED BY:

By: _____
Department Director

Date: _____

Exhibit A Scope of Work

I. Chapter 13A Inspections & Administrative Citations

- A. **Notice of Violation and Order to Abate:** Consultant agrees to conduct inspections of properties within the territory of _____ for compliance with Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A. If Consultant finds violations of Chapter 13A, Consultant shall issue a written notice to the property owner and any known person in possession of the property as set forth in Sonoma County Code Sections 1-7.3 and 1-7.6. A sample Notice of Violation is attached to this Scope of Work. The notice of violation and order to abate shall specify the corrective actions required to be taken and order the property owners and persons in possession to abate the violations within 30 calendar days and state that the failure to bring the property into compliance with Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A could subject the owner or persons in possession to civil, administrative and criminal penalties and abatement costs pursuant to Sonoma County Code Sections 1-7 and 1-7.1. The Notice of Violation and Order to Abate shall be posted on the property and mailed to the property owner by certified mail pursuant to Sonoma County Code Section 1-7.6(e)(2)
- B. **Administrative Citation and Final Order:** If the property owner or person in possession fails to abate the violations within 30 calendar days, Consultant shall issue an Administrative Notice. A sample Administrative Citation and Final Order is attached to this Scope of Work. The Administrative Citation and Final order shall be posted on the property and mailed to the property owner by certified mail pursuant to Sonoma County Code Section 1-7.6(e)(2).

II. **Chipper Services.** As Consultant deems necessary and with the approval of the Sonoma County Fire Marshal, Consultant shall perform chipping services to reduce fuel loads.

III. **Other Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Projects.** Consultant may perform projects to engage in general or targeted hazardous vegetation fuels removal, public education. Perform services in federal and state grant funded projects areas for wildfire resiliency, defensible space, structural hardening and environmental compliance of a California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP); or compliance with Sonoma County Code Chapter 13A. Consultant shall coordinate with Sonoma County Fire Marshal for Consultant's performance of specific vegetation management projects in their local fire district jurisdictions.

Attached documents:

Administrative Citation Final Notice of Correction Order
Notice of Violation and Order to Abate: Improved Parcel
Notice of Violation and Order to Abate: Unimproved Parcel