

## **TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Title: Authorize the Town Manager to sign professional services agreement with Cardno for archeological services in an amount not to exceed \$117,143.50 and approve the appropriation of \$120,000 from Fund 215 to include cost for administration and contingency.

Meeting Date: November 2, 2022

Prepared by: Lawson Reif, Office Of Outdoor Recreation

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the Town Manager to sign a professional services agreement with Cardno (Stantec) to authorize payment not to exceed \$120,000.00 to complete archeological analysis of the Sherwins Trails (SHARP) project and approve \$2,856.50 for Town staff time and contingency for a total allocation of \$120,000 from Fund 215.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In order to continue with the development of the Sherwins Trails (SHARP) project, archeological analysis of the project area is required. Due to staffing constraints within the Inyo National Forest, the Town is seeking the services of Cardno (Stantec) to perform this environmental work. Cardno was vetted through an RFQ process in 2020 and is on the Town's short list for on-call environmental services. Cardno has vast experience working in the eastern Sierra and direct experience working in the archeologically rich area that is the Mammoth Ranger District.

A professional services agreement will be the mechanism used to authorize Cardno (Stantec) to perform archeological services. The professional services agreement will be for a two-year term but contains a unilateral option for automatic renewal for two additional one-year terms. The initial work will be completed this year, pending weather. Future work on the SHARP trail project will be pursued if the Town is successful in securing grant funding.

Work to be performed under the professional services agreement is highlighted in the attached scope of services.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The Mammoth Trails Committee (MTC) and Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) recommended a \$100,000 allocation from the Measure R Trails (Fund 215) reserves specifically for SHARP environmental review. Based on the proposal received from Cardno, staff time, and a small contingency, staff is recommending the allocation of \$120,000 to fully fund the archeological work as proposed from Fund 215. The fund has adequate reserves specifically set aside for this type of planning work for the trails program.

While Council has the authority to appropriate these funds, staff will follow up with the MTC and MLR on the final cost of the work and use of funds. This is the first phase of the work necessary to move the SHARP trails program forward. Staff anticipates completion this year of this phase of the work pending weather.

Furthermore, an approximately \$520,000 planning grant was applied for with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) of which a portion would be used to fund the archeological analysis for the SHARP project, which will be completed in phases. This grant has been recommended for approval by SNC staff and the SNC board is expected to vote for potential funding of this grant application in December 2022. If approved, additional work will proceed to finalize the environmental analysis under NEPA for the proposed trail projects.