

# County Of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board Use Only

Meeting Date

Held Until

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Agenda Item No:

Agenda Item No:

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**Department:** Transportation and Public Works

**4/5 Vote Not Required**

**Contact:**  
Jon Stout

**Phone:**  
(707) 565-7243

**Board Date:**  
11/10/09

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Agreement with LSA Associates, Inc.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:**

Approve and authorize Chairperson to execute an Agreement with LSA Associates, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$53,910 for Wildlife Hazard Assessment and Wildlife Hazard Management Plan at the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport (Fourth Supervisorial District).

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES:**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:**

Estimated Cost	\$23,690	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$0
Amount Budgeted 291013-6500	\$23,690	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$0
Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)	\$0	Other Transfers (Source:)	\$0
Additional Requested	\$0	Additional Funds Requested	\$0

**Explanation (if required):** The amount budgeted is for that portion of the contract funding required in FY 09/10. The remainder of the funding if deemed necessary will be budgeted in the applicable fiscal year.

**Prior Board Action:** none.

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:** The Board could not approve agreement and the Airport would need to find a different vendor at additional costs.

**Background:**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as part of their guidelines under 14 CFR Part 139.337, the laws that govern airports, requires airports to complete a Wildlife Hazard Assessment (WHA) to determine if a Wildlife Hazard Management Plan (WHMP) is necessary. In 2006 LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) completed a draft WHA for the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport which was submitted to the FAA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services for their review and comments. The WHA was also sent to potential members of a Wildlife Hazards Working Group that would be formed to assist the Airport in future oversight of implementing the WHMP if one was needed.

In Oct. 31, 2008 the Airport received a response letter from the USDA outlining data gaps and additional information required for completion of a final WHA. The most significant of USDA's comments was that the extent of wildlife studies used in support of the WHA required a full year of surveys, and our original WHA was limited to 4 surveys during the fall and early winter months. At the time LSA completed the survey they were not required to conduct year long studies. In the past USDA and FAA were willing to deviate from the year-long study guideline. However, when staff approached the agencies on the USDA's comments, the USDA indicated that with the landing of the plane in the Hudson River, due to bird strikes, they are now rigidly enforcing the year long survey requirement. A final determination on whether the Airport will need to complete a full WHMP cannot be resolved until further data is collected.

The Airport is requesting approval of an agreement with LSA to conduct the additional surveys required by the USDA and update the existing WHA. After review by the Airport, LSA will resubmit the WHA to the FAA and the USDA. If the FAA determines that a WHMP is warranted, the contract provides for LSA to prepare and finalize the WHMP. The additional wildlife surveys and WHA revision are budgeted at \$23,690, and if deemed necessary by the FAA and the USDA, the WHMP is budgeted at \$30,220 for a final not to exceed amount on the contract of \$53,910. The funding for the first tasks has been budgeted in the Airport's Enterprise Index (291013) within Services and Supplies. Funding for the WHMP if found to be necessary will be budgeted in the applicable fiscal year. The term of this agreement is Dec, 31 2011.

County staff does not have the expertise nor the time to conduct the surveys required by USDA, so the Airport must rely on outside contractors. LSA is a leading firm in wildlife assessment and performed the original WHA and was initially selected through a competitive process. Continuing with LSA also assures that the new data collected will be compatible with the existing data. LSA's rates are approximately 8% higher for this work than they were when the original work was done in 2006, which is in line with inflationary increases for professional services, and the rates are consistent with the average for the industry. The contract has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel.

**Recommended Action:**

Approve and authorize Chairperson to execute an Agreement with LSA Associates, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$53,910 for Wildlife Hazard Assessment and Wildlife Hazard Management Plan at the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport (Fourth Supervisorial District).

**Attachments:** None.

**On File With Clerk:** Agreement with LSA Associates, Inc.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**