



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## PLANNING & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

R-14-152  
December 2, 2014

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Stevens Creek Nature Trail Footbridges Project

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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Authorize the General Manager to finalize contract negotiations with Environmental Science Associates to complete the environmental analysis and bridge design work for a footbridge replacement and a new footbridge along Stevens Canyon Nature Trail in Montebello Open Space Preserve.

#### SUMMARY

As part of the FY2014-15 Action Plan, the Board of Directors approved the design and permitting to repair or replace a deteriorating footbridge along the Stevens Canyon Nature trail in Montebello Open Space Preserve. Another footbridge project less than one-third of a mile upstream was recently identified in the Measure AA project list development. A 'wet ford' crossing that is impassable during the winter would be upgraded and made passable by constructing a new footbridge. These two footbridges were combined into one Measure AA project, 17-4.

Environmental Science Associates ("ESA") was qualified under a Request for Proposal and Qualifications issued on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for engineering and CEQA expertise. ESA was deemed well-qualified to provide environmental/CEQA consulting services. This qualification was based on their experience working with various regulatory agencies involved with this project (Regional Water Quality Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and US Department of Fish and Wildlife) and their proven ability to deliver a superior product on a very tight schedule.

Per the Board-approved *Public Contract Bidding, Vendor, and Professional Consultant Selection and Purchasing Policy*, consultants may be deemed qualified for future work as part of RFPs for a period of up to two years from determination of the qualification (Section III.D.7). ESA was deemed qualified under the 2013 RFP and was contacted to provide a proposal for this Project.

#### MEASURE AA

The 5-year Measure AA Project List was approved by the Board at the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. This project, 17-4, is part of the "Complete Upper Stevens Creek Trail" portfolio and helps connect the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the Bay Trail via Stevens Creek Trail.

## **DISCUSSION**

The existing bridge over a tributary to Stevens Creek is deteriorating; the wood beams are showing signs of rotting, the bridge has partially separated from its footings, and is being undermined by stream bank failure. This bridge is used by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. The wet ford crosses the main channel of Stevens Creek one-third of a mile upstream and is used by hikers only.

Both sites share a similar environmental setting. Highly erodible soils, over-steepened slopes, and stream bank failures are present around both sites, which are one-half mile from the San Andreas Fault. Construction and equipment access is limited by narrow trails. The proposed bridges will span 45-50 feet. Both sites are within the jurisdiction of the City of Palo Alto.

The existing trail and crossing locations alignments avoid, to the greatest extent possible, deep-seated landslide features that characterize this sub-watershed. Alternative bridge locations were analyzed for both sites, but were deemed costly and impractical. Constructing significant lengths of new trail does not avoid the underlying environmental conditions that constrain the project. Alternative alignments would add significant costs to the project, distance the trail from Stevens Creek, and delay implementation of the project.

ESA was qualified under a Request for Proposal and Qualifications issued on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for engineering and CEQA expertise. If the PNR Committee approves the General Manager's recommendation, and the full Board of Directors authorizes the contract, ESA will coordinate the design and permitting process with engineers and hydrologists and draft the appropriate CEQA document for the project.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

If the PNR Committee approves the General Manager's recommendation, staff will complete negotiations with ESA on the proposed contract, estimated to cost between \$100,000 and \$120,000. The final contract will be brought to the Board for consideration. This contract would be funded by Measure AA.

Construction costs are estimated to range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 depending on the type of bridge and footings required.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Interested parties and adjoining owners within 300 feet of the Montebello Open Space Preserve were notified.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Engineering, permitting, design, and CEQA services do not constitute a project under CEQA as it will not result in a direct physical change in the environment [CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2)].

## **NEXT STEPS**

If the PNR Committee approves the General Manager's recommendation, staff will finalize the negotiations with ESA for design, engineering, and permitting services and bring the contract

with ESA to the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Board of Directors meeting. The design specification process and project permitting would follow. The existing bridge may be permitted and replaced in the fall of 2015, depending on the permits required and crew availability (it is currently anticipated that the bridges would be constructed by District crew). Contracts for construction or materials purchases over \$25,000 would return to the Board for approval. The new bridge will require additional permits and is planned for construction in 2016.

#### Attachments

1. Powerpoint with Map and Pictures

Responsible Department Head:  
Michael Newburn, Operations Manager

Prepared by:  
Aaron Hébert, Contingent Project Manager



# Stevens Creek Nature Trail Footbridges

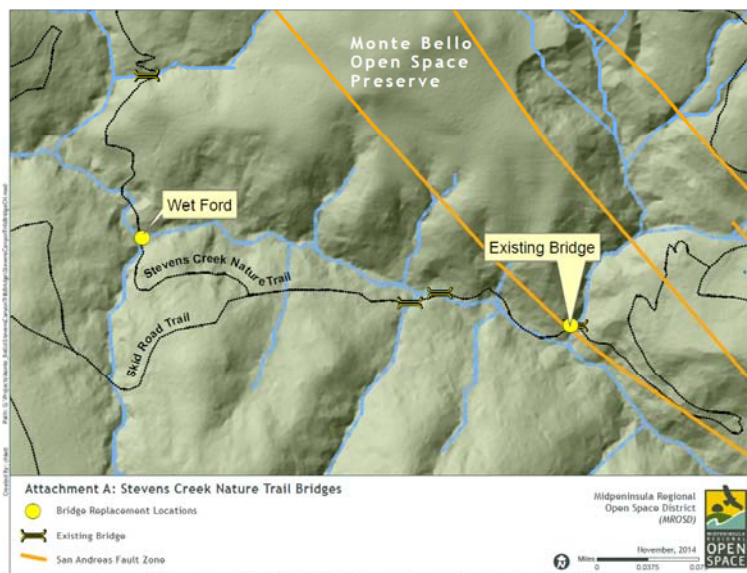
Planning and Natural Resource Committee

Aaron Hébert, Contingent Project Manager

December 2nd, 2014



## Project Location: Stevens Creek Nature Trail





### Existing Bridge Over Stevens Creek Tributary



### Wet Ford Over Stevens Creek

