



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-16-108
Meeting 16-22
September 14, 2016

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Vegetation Management for Fire Protection at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. of Santa Cruz, California in the amount not to exceed \$47,000.00 to provide vegetation management services at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve in Fiscal Year 2016-17.
2. Authorize the General Manager to extend the above contract in the amount not to exceed \$28,000 in Fiscal Year 2017-18 to provide vegetation management services at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve if the Board approves this funding in the FY2017-18 budget.

SUMMARY

The Santa Cruz Mountains are highly susceptible to wildfire and pose a significant risk to structures along the wildland-urban interface. Creating a shaded fuel break along Highway 17 (approximately 15.2 acres) and a 100' shaded fuel break for defensible space around the Bear Creek Stables (approximately 14.1 acres) within the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve) will significantly reduce the risk of damage from wildfire and enhance wildland fire suppression efforts. A Request for Bids was sent to eleven (11) selected vegetation management firms, local builders exchanges, and posted on the District website; two (2) proposals were received. After thorough review of the proposals, Ecological Concerns, Inc. of Santa Cruz, CA was determined to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The cost for these services will not exceed \$75,000.00 over the two-year period. The Board approved \$47,000 in the FY2016-17 Budget for the first year of this work. The FY2017-18 Budget will include a request for the second year cost of \$28,000 and, if approved by the Board, the contract will be extended to complete the work.

MEASURE AA

A 5-year Measure AA Project List was approved by the Board at their October 29, 2014 meeting and includes Portfolio #21, *Bear Creek Redwoods: Public Recreation Project*, with a total allocation of \$17.478 Million. This project (#21-7, BCR Invasive Weed Treatment) supports the removal of pests to prepare the Preserve for public access. As such, these costs are eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.

DISCUSSION

As part of the work efforts to prepare Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve for greater public visitation and to improve safety for our tenant, visitors, and neighboring landowners, the District is implementing several vegetation management projects. The first phase of project work is vegetation management targeting invasive vegetation control and wildland fire fuels management. A Request for Bids (RFB) was released in May of 2016, which generated significant interest from contractors (5 attended the initial mandatory pre-bid meeting), however no contractors submitted bids for the original scope of work. As a result, staff separated the vegetation management for fire protection purposes project from the roadside and invasive vegetation mowing project and released the RFB for the fire protection vegetation management project.

The scope of work for this contract is to clear two emergency landing zones, construct a shaded fuel break at the Northeast corner of the Preserve that borders Highway 17, and to clear vegetation within 30 feet of all facilities at Bear Creek Stables to “Clean and Green” CalFire standards, with an additional 70 feet of “Defensible Space” to CalFire Standards (Fig. 1).

Contractor Selection

The RFB was issued on July 21, 2016 and posted on the District website and sent to local builder’s exchanges. Eleven (11) firms, known to have experience managing vegetation in park environments using mechanical means, were directly notified by staff of the RFB. Eight (8) firms attended a mandatory pre-bid tour on July 28, 2016 at Bear Creek Redwoods. Addendums were issued on August 4, 2016 clarifying questions on the RFB during and after the pre-bid tour.

Bids were due on August 10, 2016. The results are as follows:

Bidder		Location	Total Bid for first year	Percent of Cost Estimate (Year-1 Tasks) \$45,800
1	Ecological Concerns, Inc.	Santa Cruz, CA	\$47,000.00	102.62%
2	California Reforestation, Inc.	Sonora, CA	\$66,403.60	144.99%

Ecological Concerns, Inc. is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. The duration of the contract will be a two-year term, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$75,000.00, with each year’s work subject to Board approval of the budget for that year.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Natural Resources Department FY2016-17 Budget includes \$91,880 for Vegetation Management at Bear Creek Redwoods OSP with a vegetation management contractor.

The Natural Resources Department FY2017-18 Budget request for Board consideration will include \$28,000 for the continued work by the selected vegetation management contractor.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

No Committee review has occurred for the above project. The Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan is under development and is subject to future approval, following the completion of the Environmental Impact Report for the Preserve Plan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice of this Agenda Item was provided per the Brown Act. No additional notice is required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The vegetation management activities covered by this contract have been previously reviewed in the following environmental document under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the associated mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project:

- Final Environmental Impact Report for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Integrated Pest Management Program approved by the Board on December 10, 2014.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will be authorized to enter into a one-year contract, extendable to a second year, with Ecological Concerns, Inc. of Santa Cruz, CA, with the second year's work subject to Board approval of the budget for that year.

Attachment

1. Figure-1: Locations of work for shaded fuel breaks and emergency landing zones

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Fig 1: Locations of Work Areas for Shaded Fuel Breaks and Emergency Landing Zones



Miles

0

0.25

0.5



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