



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-147
Meeting 25-30
November 12, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 14

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract to Outfit the Open Space Explorer Outreach Vehicle

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize an award of contract to RV Grounded through Fremont Chevrolet to outfit the *Open Space Explorer* outreach vehicle for an amount not-to-exceed \$133,815.

DISCUSSION

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is purchasing a Chevrolet BrightDrop 400 cargo van to serve as an *Open Space Explorer* outreach vehicle at a base cost of \$67,082. The purchase was approved by the Board of Directors (Board) on September 11, 2024, ([R-24-113, meeting minutes](#)). The search for an appropriate cargo van extended into 2025 due to the specialized nature of an outreach vehicle and the desire to purchase an electric vehicle to meet Climate Action Plan goals. Unlike a standard branded vehicle, the *Open Space Explorer* will feature an interpretive design that evokes the beauty and serenity of open space landscapes, creating a compelling visual presence that invites curiosity and engagement. This mobile unit will act as a rolling ambassador for the District, offering a welcoming and informative experience wherever it travels. A specialized outfitter is required to provide the interpretive wrap on the vehicle exterior and outfit the interior to create a mobile interpretive platform. RV Grounded is the only dealer authorized, and factory warranty outfitter available to outfit the *Open Space Explorer*.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget contains:

- ☐ sufficient funds.
- ☐ insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of unspent funds from other budgets to cover for this expenditure.
- ☒ insufficient funds; approval of this item requires a fiscal year budget augmentation.
- ☐ future fiscal year budgets will include additional funds to complete the contracted work.

Measure AA

- ☒ No, this contract is not part of a Measure AA project.

☐ Yes, this contract is part of a Measure AA project.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

Following the selection of the BrightDrop 400 as the preferred vehicle for the Open Space Explorer, staff conducted a comprehensive review of procurement options available through the Sourcewell state contract. To ensure the best possible price, staff expanded the procurement review to include competitive quotes from eight Chevrolet dealerships across the Bay Area. Fremont Chevrolet provided the lowest price quote for the vehicle, offering a price below the state contract.

The *Open Space Explorer* vehicle is intended to bring outreach, education, and open space resources to underserved and remote communities. To support these objectives, staff established specific design and functionality requirements to evaluate potential vendors and solicited quotes from seven outfitting vendors. RV Grounded was identified as the only vendor able to complete all features and the sole vendor that offers a warranty whose work is backed by Chevrolet, ensuring quality and reliability.

RV Grounded is a specialized company with experience modifying Chevrolet BrightDrop 400 vehicles into mobile marketing, education, outreach, and command centers. They are qualified as a General Motors dealer backed partner through Fremont Chevrolet, which provides formal authorization of their modifications and ensures the vehicle's manufacturer warranty remains valid. An added benefit of partnering with RV Grounded is the ability to address any modification repairs locally at the Fremont Chevrolet dealership.

Furthermore, RV Grounded was the sole vendor capable of fulfilling the complete range of customizations to meet the operational requirements for the *Open Space Explorer*. These customizations include: cabinetry and modular storage for interpretive materials; pop-up tents; storage for chairs and tabling equipment; a large side window to serve as an access point for visitors; a speaker and microphone PA system for interactive presentations; a television monitor on a swing arm for multimedia presentations and District content; and roof mounted solar panels to power the vehicle's outfitted features.

Along with interior and feature modifications, RV Grounded is also able to produce a custom vehicle wrap. By selecting a vendor capable of delivering all of these elements in house, the District avoided the need for subcontracting portions of the work, thereby streamlining the build process and achieving cost efficiencies. If approved, the District would enter into an agreement with RV Grounded for the vehicle outfitting, with the dealership included as a party to the agreement to facilitate payment for the combined vehicle and outfitting package.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

September 11, 2024: Board approved a Capital Equipment Purchase for Fiscal Year 2024-25 that includes the Cargo Van ([R-24-113](#), [meeting minutes](#))

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, staff will enter into an agreement with RV Grounded to complete the outfitting for the *Open Space Explorer*.

Attachment(s)

1. Example renderings of BrightDrop400 vehicle and outfitting

Responsible Department Head:

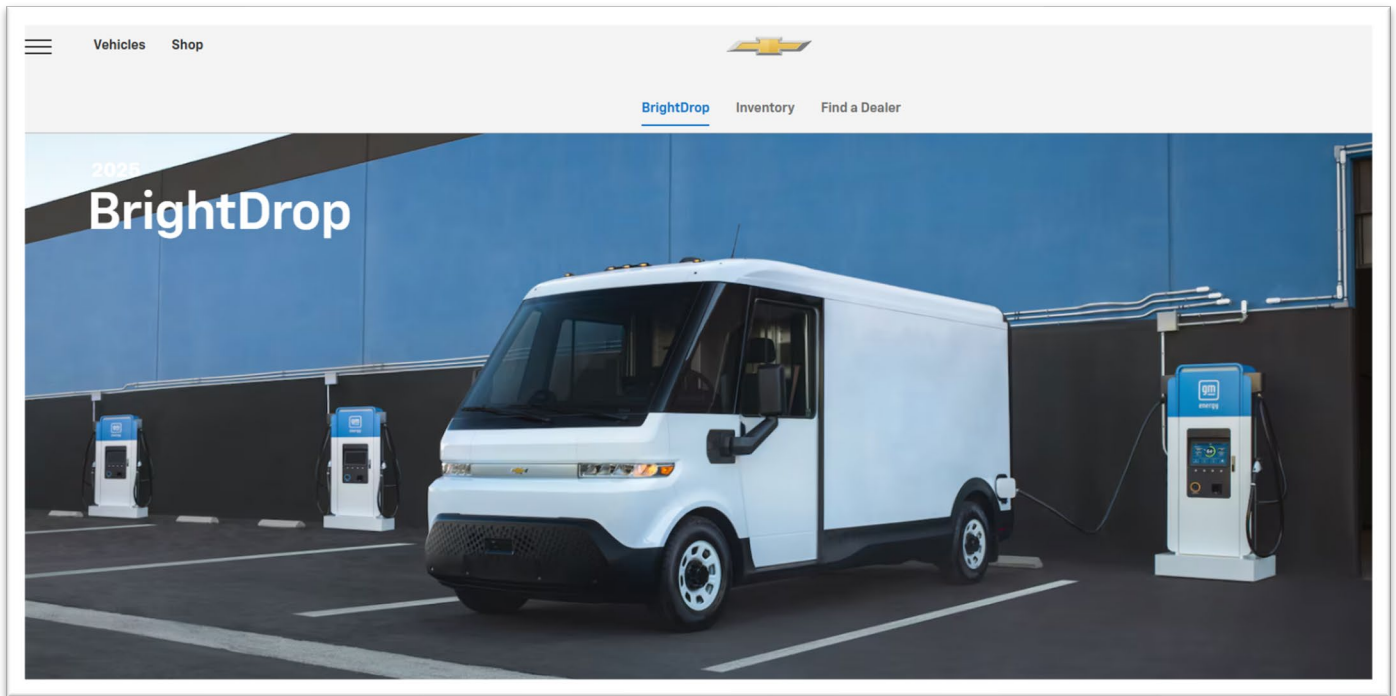
Brandon Stewart, Fleet and Facilities Manager, Fleet and Facilities Department

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Natalie Jolly, Public Affairs Specialist III, Public Affairs Department

Example renderings of BrightDrop400 vehicle and outfitting





RV Grounded Builds

