



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-28
Meeting 25-08
March 12, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Amend the Contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc., for Grant-Funded Forest Health and Ecosystem Resiliency Work

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc., of Santa Cruz, California to increase the base contract amount by \$800,000 for vegetation management services, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,400,000, and extend the contract term by one year to July 1, 2026.

DISCUSSION

On October 27, 2021, the Board of Directors (Board) awarded a contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc., of Santa Cruz, California to provide vegetation management services for grant-funded forest health and ecosystem resiliency work ([R-21-142](#), [Minutes](#)). The contract had an initial one-year term for a not to exceed amount of \$150,000, with three optional one-year extensions for a total contract amount of \$600,000 over the four-year term. Additional grant funding is available to continue forest health work for the rare Kings Mountain manzanita, to provide intervention of invasive species proliferation in previously treated areas for the Los Gatos Creek Collaborative, as well as priority treatment of invasive species in Santa Clara County. Additional grant funding is coming from the State Coastal Conservancy, Valley Water, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. Ecological Concerns, Inc., has the capacity to increase the scope and scale of work under this contract in the end of FY25 and FY26, to increase the impact of the District's work to restore the environment by utilizing the available grant funds. All expected funds under this contract are reimbursable via the following outside grant funding:

- State Coastal Conservancy
Funding for this work is expected to be made available in Fiscal Year 2026 in the amount of \$291,000 (as a grant match to a separate FEMA grant).
- Valley Water
The District is receiving \$275,000 from the D2 Valley Water Grant.

- Wildlife Conservation Board

Project savings from the reforestation projects located at the Bear Creek Redwoods Tree Farm and Cathedral Oaks is being reallocated to provide additional invasive species treatment within the Los Gatos Collaborative Project.

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 project 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

The District issued the original Request for Bids (RFB) on September 8, 2021 and advertised in local newspapers and on the District website. The budget for the RFB was set at \$150,000 for the first fiscal year (ending on June 30, 2022). If additional grant funding came available, the District may award an extension to the Contract for up to \$150,000 per year, up to three additional years at the District's sole discretion (total contract of \$600,000 over four years). Contractors were informed that the District may change the number of hours to add or deduct work from the contract scope at the District's discretion to meet the project budget.

Four (4) firms attended the mandatory pre-bid conference on September 22, 2021. Three (3) firms attended an optional field visit on September 23, 2021. Staff issued an addendum on September 27, 2021, clarifying questions on the RFB. Bids were due on October 4, 2021. The results are as follows:

Contractor	Location	Annual Base Bid
Ecological Concerns, Inc.	Santa Cruz, CA	\$131,542.20
Hanford ARC	Petaluma, CA	\$245,779.00

The District entered into a contract with Ecological Concerns with a base bid for \$150,000 and the option to extend the contract annually up to a total of four years for a not to exceed total of \$600,000.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

The Board approved the MOU between the District and Valley Water on June 28, 2017 ([R-17-79](#); [Minutes](#)).

On April 28, 2021, the Board approved the Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve Vegetation Treatment Project ([R-21-56](#); [Minutes](#)).

The Board certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report and approved the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program on May 12, 2021 ([R-21-58](#), [Minutes](#)).

On June 9, 2021, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the Santa Clara County Firesafe Council to perform vegetation management activities using a grant from CAL FIRE ([R-21-76](#), [Minutes](#)).

On June 23, 2021, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy ([R-21-84](#), [Minutes](#)).

On October 27, 2021, the Board awarded a contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. of Santa Cruz, California to provide vegetation management services for grant-funded forest health and ecosystem resiliency work ([R-21-142](#), [Minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The District prepared a Project Specific Analysis (PSA) for work to be performed within Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, which the Board approved on April 28, 2021 ([R-21-56](#); [Minutes](#)). The project and contract documents will incorporate the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the WFRP, which the Board approved on May 12, 2021 ([R-21-58](#), [Minutes](#)), analyzed the vegetation management activities in the recommended contract not reviewed by the PSA. The project and contract documents will incorporate the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the Integrated Pest Management Program, which the Board approved on December 10, 2014 ([R-14-148](#), [Minutes](#)), analyzed the vegetation management activities in the recommended contract. The project and contract documents will incorporate the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, the General Manager will amend the contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc.

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