



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-114
Meeting 26-19
August 12, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract to Ecological Concerns, Inc., for the treatment of invasive species to support the Natural Areas and Fuel Management Master Weed Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc., in the amount of \$383,295 for one year of invasive species management services.
2. Authorize the General Manager to extend the contract for three additional years, if the program achieves success criteria, for an additional \$1,268,754, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,652,049 over the four-year term.
3. Authorize a contract allowance of \$193,956 (first year is \$45,000), specifically for consumable items to perform the contracted work for a combined not-to-exceed contract amount of \$1,846,005.

DISCUSSION

Vegetation management to reduce invasive, non-native plants in natural areas, and for fuel management in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties is a core function of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP). The District's IPMP implements only those treatment methods approved by the District Board of Directors (Board), which include manual, mechanical, biological, cultural, and under limited parameters, chemical, for species identified by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) and other District-adopted priorities. These treatments support invasive plant species removal and fuel reduction objectives that protect and enhance native habitat. Implementation is structured through annual work authorizations over a multi-year period, subject to performance and continued consistency with District policy.

The proposed contract scope of work applies to all District preserves and would be funded by both the General Fund and Measure AA as follows:

Fund 10 - General Fund	Natural Areas and Fuel Management IPM	\$1,452,049
Fund 10 - General Fund	Contract Allowance	\$193,956
Fund 30 - Measure AA	Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan Invasive Weed Treatment	\$200,000
Total		\$1,846,005

Anticipated Annual Contract Amount in Future Years

Vegetation management work for the Natural Areas and Fuel Management Master Weed Program will be prioritized and scheduled annually at the District's discretion based on program needs. Successful performance will be evaluated based on completion of authorized work in accordance with District-approved schedules, treatment specifications, safety and environmental requirements, and documented progress toward the applicable invasive plant control and fuel reduction objectives. If the District elects to extend the contract beyond Year 1, the contractor may request an annual adjustment to labor rates, not to exceed five percent (5%) per year, to reflect documented increases in labor costs. Any adjustment will be based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Cost Index for Private Industry Workers in the Pacific Census Division, include supporting data, and is subject to District approval.

Allowance Amount

A separate contract allowance of \$193,956 (up to \$45,000 in the first year) is requested for consumable items (e.g., chain oil, erosion control material). The proposed contract includes this allowance because consumable use varies by site conditions and by the treatment methods implemented each annual work period (manual, mechanical, and/or herbicide). The District authorizes consumables only as needed, reimburses only actual expenses, and verifies costs through invoices. The authorized allowance may be underutilized if the District authorizes work that requires fewer materials. Any unused allowance would remain unspent.

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, a portion of this contract is part of a Measure AA project.
- ☒ This Measure AA portfolio contains a funding gap anticipated to be filled through a combination of future portfolio reallocation requests, grants, partnership funding, interest income allocations, value engineering, and Fund 40 General Fund Capital monies.

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio #21: Bear Creek Redwoods — Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects allocation, costs-to-date, projected life-to-date project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining based on the latest expenditure projections.

Approximately \$200,000 of the total contract is allocated to support the Measure AA-funded Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan Invasive Weed Treatment (MAA21-007).

Measure AA Portfolio #21: Bear Creek Redwoods — Public Recreation and Interpretive Projects	
Portfolio Allocation:	\$27,103,212
Grant Income (through FY29):	\$5,061,090
Interest Income Allocation:	\$2,709,065
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$34,873,367
21-001 Moody Gulch Fence & Gate Improvements	(\$847)
21-004 Bear Creek Stables	(\$9,732,181)
21-005 Bear Creek Redwoods Public Access	(\$5,548,003)
21-006 Bear Creek Redwoods - Alma College Cultural Landscape Rehabilitation	(\$5,556,378)
21-007 Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan Invasive Weed Treatment	(\$1,681,371)
21-008 Bear Creek Redwoods Ponds Restoration and Water Rights	(\$681,517)
21-009 Bear Creek Redwoods Webb Creek Bridge	(\$487,492)
21-010 Bear Creek Redwoods Landfill Characterization and Remediation	(\$511,730)
21-011 Phase 2 Trail Improvements, Bear Creek Redwoods OSP	(\$6,542,470)
21-012 Bear Creek Redwood Tree Restoration	(\$90,915)
21-013 Bear Creek Redwoods North Parking Area	(\$4,045,121)
21-014 Phase 2 Multiuse Trail, Bear Creek Redwoods	(\$1,854,125)
Total Projected Expenditures (life of project):	(\$36,732,150)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (proposed):	(\$1,858,783)

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

Contractor selection

A Request for Bids (RFB) was issued on June 16, 2026, via BidNet Direct. Legal notices were posted in the San Mateo County Times and San Jose Mercury News, and a link to the solicitation was posted on the District website. Staff also directly contacted qualified firms about the RFB. One mandatory pre-bid site walk was held on June 29, 2026, with six (6) contractors in attendance.

The District received 1 bid on July 13, 2026, and Ecological Concerns, Inc., was determined to be the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. While the District received only one bid, the

proposal came in below the District's estimate, with rates consistent with recently awarded contracts.

Contractor	Location	Proposed Fee (Project Manager Estimate = \$458,000)
Ecological Concerns, Inc.	Santa Cruz, CA	\$ 428,295*

*Includes base bid plus consumables for one year.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

- **December 10, 2014:** Adoption of a Final Environmental Impact Report for the Integrated Pest Management Program, and Approval of the Integrated Pest Management Program and Policy ([R-14-148](#), [Minutes](#)).
- **February 27, 2021:** Resolution Approving an Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Integrated Pest Management Program and Related Minor Project Modifications ([R-19-11](#), [Minutes](#)).
- **March 25, 2026:** Integrated Pest Management Program 10-Year Update ([R-26-39](#), [Minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the District's IPM Program, which the Board approved on December 10, 2014 ([R-14-148](#), [Minutes](#)), analyzed the vegetation management activities in the recommended contract. On February 27, 2019, the Board approved an addendum to the Final EIR for the IPM Program ([R-19-11](#), [Minutes](#)). On March 25, 2026, the Board approved an addendum to the Final EIR for the IPM Program ([R-26-39](#), [Minutes](#)). District staff have incorporated the associated mitigation measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) from the environmental review documents into the project and the contract documents.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the General Manager will execute a contract with Ecological Concerns, Inc. Work is expected to commence in September 2026. The District will annually evaluate contractor performance and consider whether to extend the contract for up to a total of four years.

Responsible Department Heads:

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources

Michael Gorman, Land Stewardship & Trails

Prepared by/contact person:

Miranda Melen, Ecologist III and IPM Coordinator, Natural Resources