



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-23-100  
Meeting 23-26  
September 13, 2023

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### AGENDA ITEM

Contract Amendment for Design and Construction Administration Services related to the Lower Alpine Road Retaining Wall Project at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve to address Winter 2023 Slope Failure Repairs

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS *deur*

1. Authorize the General Manager to amend the Design & Construction Administration Services contract with Waterways Consulting, Inc., to add design and construction support services in the amount of \$5,160 for new repair work to address a recent slope failure along a segment of unpaved road that was not recently improved, bringing the total base contract amount to \$373,427.
2. Authorize a contingency in the amount of \$1,000 to be reserved for unanticipated issues requiring additional services, bringing the total not-to-exceed amended contract amount to \$374,427.

### SUMMARY

Alpine (Road) Trail is an important regional trail connection through Coal Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve) for cyclists and hikers traveling between Portola Valley and upper Page Mill Road near Skyline Boulevard. The goal of the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail Improvement Project is to correct localized erosion and slope stabilization issues and repurpose the former road alignment into a multi-use regional trail connection. The majority of work was completed in 2022; the final improvement is to implement the Lower Alpine (Road) Trail Retaining Wall Project at the northern trailhead adjacent to the end of paved Alpine Road. To complete this work, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) awarded the design and construction administration services contract to Waterways Consulting, Inc., (R-18-124) and the construction contract to Granite Rock Company (R-23-08). The project broke ground in August 2023 and is scheduled to be completed in two to three months.

During the heavy winter storms of January through March 2023, a slope failure occurred on the trail bed immediately adjacent to the Lower Alpine (Road) Trail Retaining Wall Project site, reducing the trail width down to 3 feet on a segment of unpaved road that was not recently improved or upgraded. The slope failure must be repaired to restore maintenance access to drainage infrastructure located upstream. Engineering design and construction support is needed to complete the repairs. Waterways Consulting, Inc., is best suited to handle the additional design and construction support work because they have existing knowledge of and experience with the site, and they will already be on site performing construction administrative services for the retaining wall project.

The adopted Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24) budget includes sufficient funds to cover the work through the end of the fiscal year. The project is scheduled to be completed by end of fall 2023.

## **BACKGROUND**

The regional Alpine (Road) Trail is an existing dirt road that lies between the end of paved Alpine Road in the north and Page Mill Road near Skyline Boulevard in the south. It extends approximately 2.3 miles through Coal Creek Open Space Preserve and serves as an important regional connection for cyclists and hikers traveling from Portola Valley to upper Page Mill Road. San Mateo County (County) has owned the Alpine Road Trail since 1894 and closed it to public vehicular traffic in 1979. The County owns fee title on a small section of the pathway, as well as a right-of-way easement through Coal Creek Preserve. The District is a partial underlying fee owner of the pathway with easement rights to travel over the County easement. The District used the pathway for patrol, maintenance, and emergency access until the mid-1990s when a large landslide obstructed through travel.

The lack of ongoing maintenance degraded the roadbed and drainage features, causing excessive sedimentation into Corte Madera Creek. The Board approved the Upper Alpine (Road) Trail Repair Project on March 14, 2018 (R-18-19), and awarded a contract to Waterways Consulting, Inc., for project design, permitting, bidding assistance and engineering support during construction (R-18-124). The Board also authorized the General Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County to repair and negotiate ownership transfer and management of the Alpine (Road) Trail (R-19-19). The County granted the District grading exemptions and permit waivers to streamline the project, including issuing a right-of-entry for the District to improve the trail. The Project is part of *MAA Portfolio #10 - Coal Creek: Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use*.

The construction was separated into two projects for efficiency due to the geographical separation between sites and type of construction required. Repairs at the southern (upper) section were completed under the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail Improvement Project in November 2022 by Granite Rock Company (R-22-49). The repair at the northern (lower) end is known as the Lower Alpine (Road) Trail Retaining Wall Project and work began in August 2023 (R-23-08).

## **DISCUSSION**

Due to multiple atmospheric rivers this past winter, heavy rainfall inundated Coal Creek Open Space Preserve and the Corte Madera Creek watershed between January and March 2023. Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on January 4, 2023, followed by a declaration of state emergency by President Joe Biden on January 9, 2023. While the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail improvements completed in 2022 weathered the storm events without incident, a different segment of the trail and creek bank slope failed immediately upstream of the Lower Alpine (Road) Trail Retaining Wall Project site (outside of the 2022 project work area), significantly constricting the passable trail width for maintenance vehicle that use the accessway to reach and service drainage infrastructure located upstream.

**Storm Damage Repair Work Description**

The proposed storm damage repair work will correct the slope failure by removing loose debris and soil from the scarp face, and benching the bank into competent, undisturbed native soil. The benching will be filled with approximately 165 cubic yards of rock riprap to create a buttressed fill. The hillside will be capped with soil and covered with weed-free straw and native seed. Finally, the existing trail bed will be re-built with geotextile fabric and engineered fill.

**Additional Design and Construction Support Services**

To repair the failed slope, Waterways has begun the work by preparing a topographic map, an engineered repair solution, and design documents. Additionally, Waterways will provide construction administration support, including civil observations, responses to contractor questions, submittal reviews, and project closeout. The cost to provide these additional services is \$5,160.

**Regulatory Permitting**

Consistent with the retaining wall project, the storm repair work is located in an environmentally sensitive riparian habitat. The project will receive regulatory coverage through an amendment to the existing individual permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The repair work will be scheduled once the permits are successfully amended, which are estimated to be received within 30 days.

**Contingency Amount**

The Project site is located within the riparian habitat of several sensitive species. In addition, the construction site is extremely narrow, constraining access and work zones. These two factors can result in delays (and added costs) if sensitive species are encountered during construction. Furthermore, due to the steep topography, soil type, and amount of water received in this watershed, the project site has been susceptible to extreme erosion and sedimentation throughout the years. Unsuitable subgrade soils and the presence of subsurface water are possible and would require additional repair and dewatering efforts beyond the scope of work. As a result, the General Manager recommends a contingency of \$1,000 to cover unforeseen issues that require additional services for the additional scope of work.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The FY24 adopted budget includes \$1,106,763 for the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail, Coal Creek project MAA10-001. There are sufficient funds in the project budget to cover the recommended action and expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The project is scheduled to be completed by late fall of 2023.

<b>Alpine Road Regional Trail, Coal Creek MAA10-001</b>	<b>Prior Year Actuals</b>	<b>FY24 Adopted</b>	<b>FY25 Projected</b>	<b>FY26 Projected</b>	<b>Estimated Future Years</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
District Funded (Fund 30):	\$2,473,224	\$1,106,763	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$60,000	<b>\$3,689,987</b>
Grant Amount:	\$272,211	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$272,211</b>
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>\$2,745,435</b>	<b>\$1,106,763</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$3,962,198</b>

Spent-to-Date (as of 08/22/23):	(\$2,745,435)	(\$587)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$2,746,022)
Encumbrances:	\$0	(\$53,483)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$53,483)
Waterways Contract Amendment:	\$0	(\$5,160)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$5,160)
Contingency:	\$0	(\$1,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,000)
Granite Rock Company Contract Amendment and Contingency*:	\$0	(\$126,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$126,500)
<b>Budget Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$920,033</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$1,030,033</b>

\* Granite Rock Company Contract Amendment going to the Board for approval at the same 9/13/23 meeting

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio 10 *Coal Creek: Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use* allocation, costs-to-date, projected future project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

<b>MAA10 Coal Creek — Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use Portfolio Allocation:</b>	<b>\$8,017,000</b>
Grant Income (through FY27):	\$272,211
<b>Total Portfolio Allocation:</b>	<b>\$8,289,211</b>
Life-to-Date Spent (as of 08/22/23):	(\$2,746,022)
Encumbrances:	(\$53,483)
Remaining FY24 Project Budgets:	(\$1,052,693)
Future MAA10 project costs (projected through FY27):	(\$110,000)
<b>Total Portfolio Expenditures:</b>	<b>(\$3,962,198)</b>
<b>Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$4,327,013</b>

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio 10 allocation, projected life of project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

<b>MAA10 Coal Creek — Reopen Alpine Road for Trail Use Portfolio Allocation:</b>	<b>\$8,017,000</b>
Grant Income (through FY27):	\$272,211
<b>Total Portfolio Allocation:</b>	<b>\$8,289,211</b>
Projected Project Expenditures (life of project):	
10-001 Alpine Road Regional Trail, Coal Creek	(\$3,962,198)
<b>Total Portfolio Expenditures:</b>	<b>(\$3,962,198)</b>
<b>Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$4,327,013</b>

## PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

- October 24, 2018:** The Board approved an Award of Contract with Waterways Consulting, Inc., for design and engineering services, preparation of construction documents, permitting and bidding process support, and construction oversight for the Alpine (Road) Trail Repair at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve. ([R-18-124, meeting minutes](#))

- **February 13, 2019:** The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of San Mateo for the repair and future transfer of ownership and management of the Alpine (Road) Trail. ([R-19-19](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **April 6, 2020:** The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the District to apply for Stanford Recreation Mitigation Funding from Santa Clara County and enter into a funding agreement if the application was successful. ([R-20-30](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **January 13, 2021:** The Board certified the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Alpine (Road) Trail Improvements. ([R-21-04](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **April 27, 2022:** The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract with Condor Country Consulting Inc., to provide biological monitoring for the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail Improvement Project. ([R-22-51](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **April 27, 2022:** The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into contract with Granite Rock Company to complete the Alpine (Road) Regional Trail Improvement Project. ([R-22-49](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **January 11, 2023:** The Board authorized a minor contract amendment with Waterways Consulting, Inc., for construction administrative services for the Lower Alpine (Road) Retaining Wall Project. ([R-23-03](#), [meeting minutes](#)). The Board also awarded the contract to Granite Rock Company to construct the Lower Alpine (Road) Trail Retaining Wall Project ([R-23-08](#), [meeting minutes](#))

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

The environmental impacts of the proposed additional work as described herein for the Alpine (Road) Trail Improvements Project in the Coal Creek Open Space Preserve are evaluated in an Addendum to the Alpine (Road) Trail Improvements Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The IS/MND was approved by Board Resolution on January 13, 2021 (Resolution No. 21-01) and the Addendum is under consideration for approval by the Board at this same meeting under a prior Agenda Item. The Addendum's environmental analysis revealed no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified impacts, and no new mitigation measures are required. Furthermore, none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines calling for the preparation of a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration apply.

## NEXT STEPS

If approved by the Board, the General Manager will amend the Waterways Consulting, Inc., Design and Construction Administration contract to include the additional storm repair work. At this same Board meeting, under a different Agenda Item, the Board is also asked to approve a contract amendment with Granite Rock Company to complete the storm repair work.

Attachments

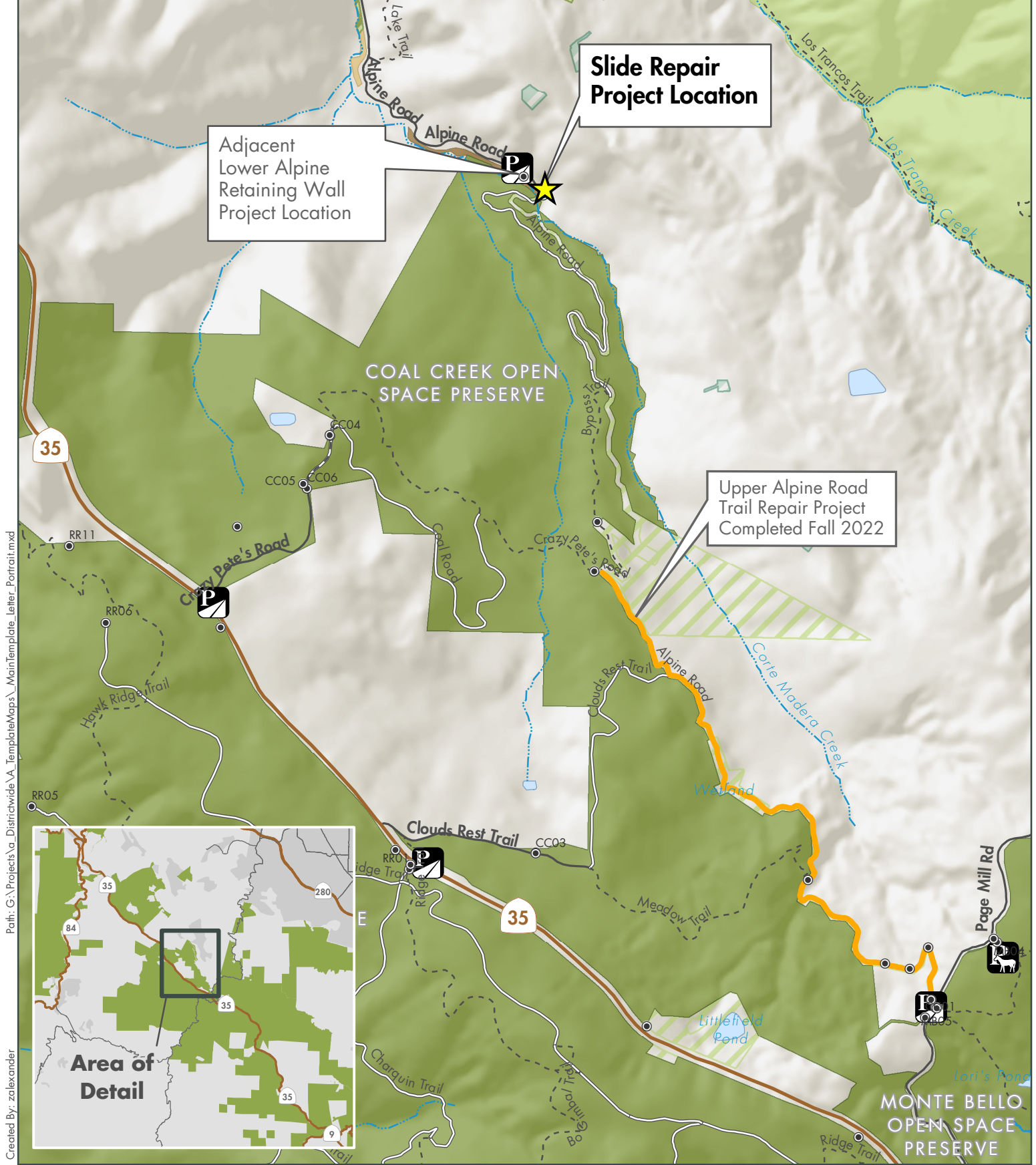
1. Project Site Map
2. Slope Failure Photos

Responsible Department Head:

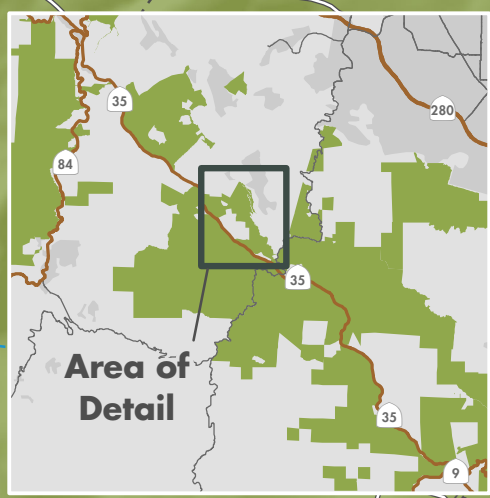
Jason Lin, PE, Engineering and Construction Department Manager

Prepared by:







Scott Reeves, Senior Capital Project Manager, Engineering and Construction Department



Path: G:\Projects\va\_Districtwide\VA\_TemplateMaps\MainTemplate\_Letter\_Portrait.mxd  
 Created By: zalexander



### Attachment 1: Project Site Map

- |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  MROSD Preserves       |  Watershed Land      |
|  Other Protected Lands |  Land Trust          |
|  Private Property      |  Other Public Agency |

Midpeninsula Regional  
 Open Space District  
 (Midpen)  
 8/24/2023



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, these data do not represent a legal survey and are merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.



# ATTACHMENT 2: SLOPE FAILURE PHOTO 1 OF 2



Trailhead and Lower Alpine Road Retaining Wall Project are located here

Approximate outboard edge of road



# ATTACHMENT 2: SLOPE FAILURE PHOTO 2 OF 2

Approximate outboard edge of road

