



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-141
Meeting 25-30
November 12, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 4

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract with Oregon State University for Consultation on Plant Pathogens

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to enter into a two-year term contract with Oregon State University to provide ecological consulting services regarding plant pathogens at 14 revegetation sites for a base amount not to exceed \$99,708.

DISCUSSION

In 2017, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) authorized an agreement with Oregon State University (OSU) to study soilborne *Phytophthora* species ([R-17-85](#), [Minutes](#)). *Phytophthora* is a concern to the natural environment because it is a plant-debilitating pathogen that can devastate ecosystems by causing diseases like root rot and sudden oak death. It poses a significant threat to native plants and habitat, with the ability to spread through soil, water, and plant material, resulting in difficult eradication once established.

OSU's sampling in 2017 and 2018 revealed a high diversity of *Phytophthora* species on District lands, likely introduced through the planting of infested nursery stock, importation of soil, construction activities, and other historic disturbances. As part of this earlier study, OSU recommended various management strategies to limit pathogen spread such as exclusion through the use of pathogen-free plantings and seed stock, site-specific eradication, resistance through the use of *Phytophthora*-resistant native plants, and sanitation actions to suppress spread, along with follow-up testing and monitoring of infested sites. To date, the District has pursued exclusion methods by working closely with native plant nurseries to procure pathogen-free nursery stock and by utilizing direct seed planting to minimize the potential for pathogen introduction. The District has also adopted sanitation measures as Best Management Practices to guide soil disturbance activities and on-the-ground project work.

To build on the 2017/18 study and investigate the efficacy of management actions taken to date, the rate of pathogen spread, and understand what native plants can survive or tolerate exposure, staff issued a Request for Proposals and Qualifications (RFPQ) for ecological consulting services. The RFPQ solicitation sought firms to resample and test previously surveyed sites, assess site receptivity and pathogen spread, evaluate potential remediation methods such as soil solarization, and develop remediation plans. The proposed agreement with OSU would resample

and test 14 revegetation sites that ranked as highly/moderately infested, monitor plant health outcomes, conduct a new soil solarization trial, and prepare Preserve-specific management plans to assist the District with managing infested areas and reducing *Phytophthora* impacts. Soil solarization may be implemented in future years as a remediation technique, depending on its feasibility and trial results.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget for project #80084 – Remediation of Planting Sites contains \$50,000 in Fund 10 – General Fund Operating:

- ☒ 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

On September 3, 2025, the District requested proposals from 13 researchers and consulting firms and posted the RFPQ to the District online procurement website, BidNet Direct. One proposal was received by the deadline of September 22, 2025, with results as follows:

Consultant	Location	Proposed Fee
Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	\$99,708

Oregon State University (OSU) was determined to be qualified to provide the required services, consistent with the District's previous determination as established under Board authorization in 2017 for the OSU soilborne *Phytophthora* study. Their fee structure is a fair and reasonable. This determination was made because the proposed fee for this work remains consistent with the fee structure for the 2017 study.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

On June 28, 2017, the Board authorized entering into a contract with Oregon State University to perform District-wide testing of revegetation sites for soilborne *Phytophthora* species ([R-17-85, Minutes](#)).

On March 27, 2019, the Board authorized a contract amendment with Oregon State University for additional environmental consulting services ([R-19-29, Minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This contract is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Additionally, the proposed field surveys to be conducted by the consultant are categorically exempt from CEQA under Article 19, Section 15306:

Section 15306 exempts basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, the General Manager will execute a contract with Oregon State University to provide ecological consulting services regarding plant pathogens at revegetation sites across District lands. Staff may return to the Board for authorization for additional sampling, testing, consultation, and implementation of management recommendations dependent on the results of this study and feasibility of remediation.

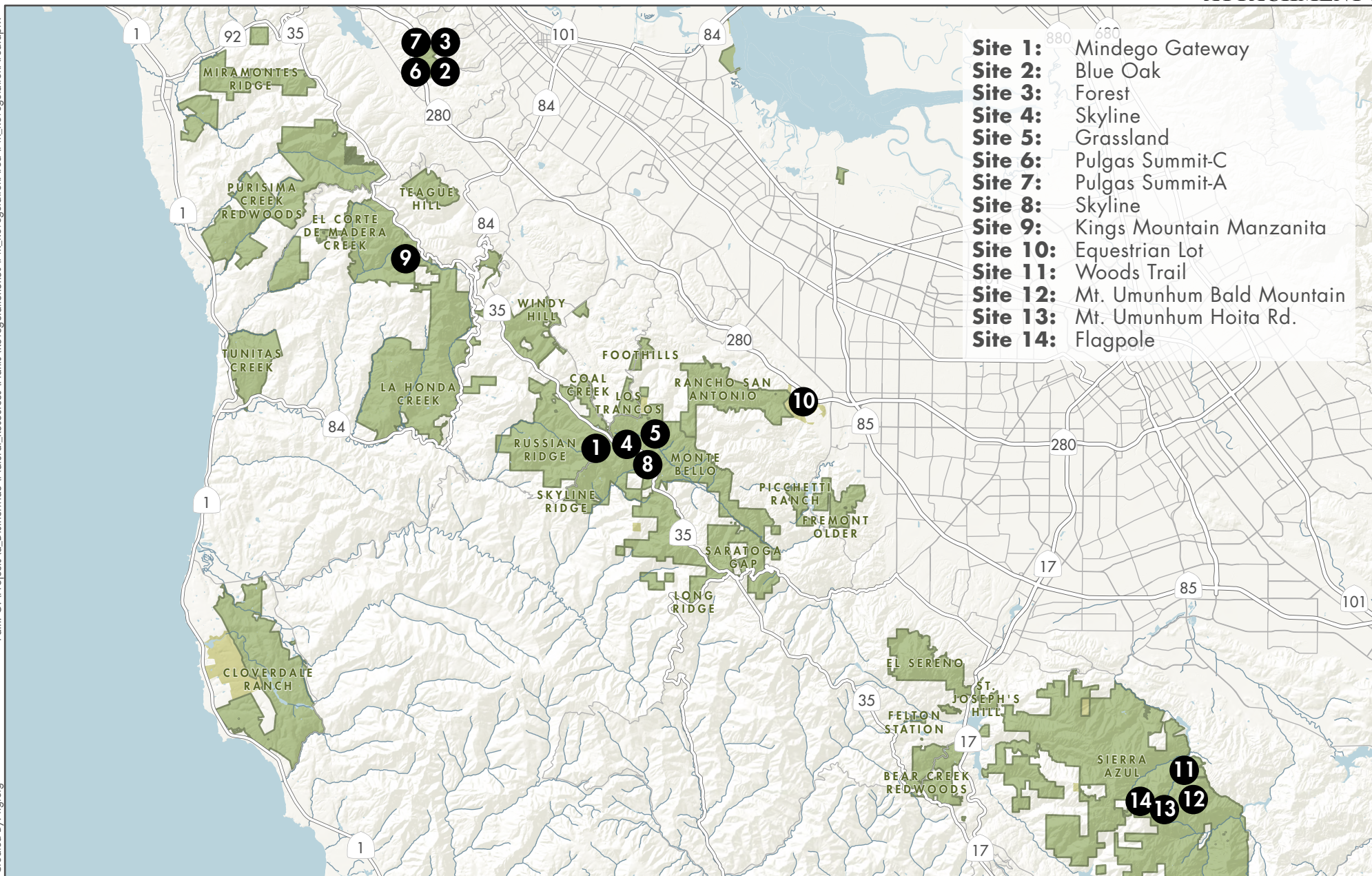
Attachment

1. Project Location Map

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Graphics prepared by:
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Project Location Map

- Midpen preserve
- Lease and Management Agreement
- # Revegetation project location

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
10/23/2025



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