



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

## PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-09  
Meeting 26-03  
January 28, 2026

## AGENDA ITEM 4

### AGENDA ITEM

Contract amendment with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management to authorize assignment of the contract and provide additional technical support for the La Honda Forest Health Project

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to amend the contract with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management of Berkeley, California to authorize the assignment of contracted forest assessment and planning services for the La Honda Forest Health Project to Sicular Environmental Consulting LLC (a new reorganized consulting entity) and provide additional technical support for a feasibility study of the Northside Road in the amount of \$37,643, bringing the total contract not-to-exceed amount to \$224,936.

### DISCUSSION

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) approved an award of contract with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management to provide forest assessment and planning services for the forested lands in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve on June 26, 2019 ([R-19-84](#)). Since entering into the original contract, Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management formed a new entity, Sicular Environmental Consulting LLC (both entities referred to herein as “Sicular”). The District subsequently received a request to reassign the contract to the new entity. District staff have confirmed that the new entity meets the required qualifications and can adequately perform the remaining contract. Therefore, the General Manager recommends reassigning the contract to Sicular to reflect the firm’s recent reorganization.

Sicular produced the La Honda Forest Health and Management Plan approved by the Board on July 28, 2021 (R-21-03) and the Woodruff Creek-Folger Addendum on July 26, 2023 (R-22-116). Since then, the District has entered into a contract with Buena Vista Services to prepare a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) for the La Honda Forest Health Project as the next step in project implementation. During the course of THP preparations, an underlying structural issue with the Northside road, a potential haul route, was discovered. This issue requires a contract amendment in the amount of \$37,643 for inclusion of geotechnical engineering services to confirm the road’s structural integrity and feasibility for use as part of the haul route.

**BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT**

**The current fiscal year budget for Project MAA05-010 La Honda Forest Health contains:**

- ☐ sufficient funds.
- ☒ insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of unspent funds from other budgets to cover 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.

The following table outlines the **Measure AA Portfolio #05: La Honda Creek—Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects** allocation, costs-to-date, projected life-to-date project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

While Portfolio #05 shows a projected overage, refined projections will be integrated into the Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Budget & Action Plan. Staff are actively identifying alternative funding sources to offset the remaining gap.

<b>Measure AA Portfolio #05: La Honda Creek—Upper Area Recreation, Habitat Restoration and Conservation Grazing Projects</b>	
Portfolio Allocation:	\$11,733,000
Grant Income (through FY29):	\$1,000,000
Fund 40 Allocation:	\$655,000
<b>Total Portfolio Allocation:</b>	<b>\$13,388,000</b>
<b>Projected Expenditures (Life of Project):</b>	
05-001 La Honda Creek Land Conservation Opportunities	(\$1,756,093)
05-002 Upper La Honda Creek Grazing Infrastructure	(\$297,432)
05-004 La Honda Creek Sears Ranch Interim Parking	\$0
05-005 La Honda Creek Red Barn Parking Area and Easy Access Trail	(\$327,513)
05-006 La Honda Creek Sears Ranch Road Repair	\$0
05-007 La Honda Creek Trail Connections	(\$1,638,217)
05-008 La Honda Creek White Barn Structural Rehabilitation	(\$705,117)
05-009 La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin Removal and Site Restoration	(\$488,846)
05-010 La Honda Forest Health	(\$2,033,579)
05-011 Lone Madrone Ranch Fence Installation	(\$287,349)
05-012 Paulin Culvert/Bridge Improvements	(\$751,260)
05-013 La Honda Parking and Trailhead Access Implementation	(\$3,615,311)
05-014 Lone Madrone Corrals	(\$475,394)

05-015 Upper La Honda Creek Land Acquisition (Eberhard)	(\$1,026,358)
<b>Total Projected Expenditures (Life of Project):</b>	<b>(\$13,402,469)</b>
<b>Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>(\$14,469)</b>

## PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

A Request for Proposals & Qualifications (RFPQ) was issued on April 18, 2019, on BidSync and directly emailed to 22 forest management professionals, educational institutions, and agencies. Staff received three proposals by the May 20, 2019 RFPQ deadline.

Based on a thorough evaluation, Sicular was deemed the most qualified, given their project team's diverse field knowledge, prior experience with other similar projects, and well designed and justified forest assessment methodology. Sicular demonstrated a deep knowledge of the project's background, setting, deliverables and goals, and submitted a high-quality proposal to perform the scope of work at a fair and reasonable price. For these reasons, the General Manager recommended entering into an agreement with Sicular to complete the La Honda Forest Assessment and Management Planning Project. The Board approved the award of contract at the June 26, 2019 Board meeting.

## PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

- **June 26, 2019:** The Board approved an award of contract with Sicular Environmental Consulting to provide forest assessment and planning services for the La Honda Forest. ([R-19-84](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **July 28, 2021:** The Board reviewed and approved the Forest Health Plan and authorized the preparation of an addendum to the Forest Health Plan to include the recently acquired Woodruff Creek-Folger Parcel. ([R-21-103](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **October 12, 2022:** The Board reviewed the Forest Health Plan and next steps for the project, which included developing forest management prescriptions under a forest health THP to improve forest health conditions. ([R-22-116](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **July 26, 2023:** The Board received a study session presentation on the Woodruff Creek-Folger Parcel Addendum to the La Honda Forest Health Assessment and Management Plan as well as the Project Description for the La Honda Forest Health Project. ([R-23-88](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **January 10, 2024:** The Board approved an award of contract with Buena Vista Services to prepare a Timber Harvest Plan for the Project. ([R-24-03](#), [meeting minutes](#))
- **April 9, 2025:** The Board approved a contract amendment with Sicular Environmental Consulting and Natural Lands Management to provide additional technical support for the La Honda Forest Health Project ([R-25-42](#), [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**

Upon Board approval, the General Manager will amend the contract with Sicular to authorize assignment and provide additional consulting services.

Responsible Department Head:

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager, Natural Resources Department

Prepared by/contact person:

Arianna Camponuri, Forest Ecologist II, Natural Resources Department