



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-23-81  
Meeting 23-20  
August 9, 2023

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### AGENDA ITEM

Grant Agreement for Federal Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Funding to Support the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

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Adopt a Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement for \$741,450 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funding.

### SUMMARY

The General Manager recommends that the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution (Attachment 1 – Resolution) authorizing the General Manager as a signatory to enter into a grant funding agreement for up to \$741,450 in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funding for the implementation of the District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program.

### DISCUSSION

On January 14, 2022, District staff submitted a congressional Community Project Funding Program ("Community Project Funding") request to Congresswoman Jackie Speier to support the District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program ([WFRP](#)). The District's WFRP approved in May 2021, has an over-arching goal of building organizational capacity at the local and regional levels to implement forest health and fire risk reduction projects. The District has secured multiple grant funding awards to increase the speed and scale of the WFRP implementation.

District staff refined the Project scope and funding request to \$741,450, with guidance from the Office of Congresswoman Speier, to meet eligibility requirements for United States Department of Homeland Security appropriations to FEMA. The member request was successfully appropriated in the FY23 federal budget. Community Project Funding appropriated to FEMA will be administered by California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM).

On April 14, 2023, District staff submitted the required PDM application for \$741,450 to meet the deadlines provided in FEMA's Notice of Funding Opportunity. Following the anticipated approval of the District's Wildland Fire Mitigation Project (Project) application by FEMA, the PDM funding agreement will be developed for the District to review and enter into by fall 2023.

The FEMA PDM funding will provide a match to an existing grant for the Project approved by the State Coastal Conservancy ([Coastal Conservancy](#)) on September 22, 2022. The Coastal Conservancy's \$1,080,000 grant supports WFRP implementation on 200 acres in four preserves (Windy Hill, Skyline Ridge, Russian Ridge and El Corte de Madera) in addition to tasks for staff capacity building and purchase of vegetation management equipment for the WFRP. The Coastal Conservancy funding agreement anticipates a possible match from Congresswoman Speier's member request for federal Community Project Funding, which has been in progress at the federal level since January 2022.

The FEMA PDM funding, administered by Cal OES, will support treatment on approximately 167 acres as a match with Coastal Conservancy funding for Russian Ridge and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserves along a known community escape route that extends from Highway 35 to Portola State Park Road, as well as treatments at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve along a known community escape route that extends along Alpine Road to Willowbrook Drive (Attachment 2 – Project Area Maps). Specific locations for fuel treatment were determined by the criteria laid out in the WFRP, including the presence of special status species that can be further protected through the removal of invasive or fire-prone species, areas that enhance and facilitate fire suppression activities, and/or zones recommended by state or local fire management agencies.

Contingent upon Board authorization and FEMA approval, the District will review the final grant terms when they are provided by the funding agency, and enter into a funding agreement with Cal OES, and begin implementation for the Project upon notice to proceed. If the terms of the funding agreement are not in the District's and the public's best interest, the General Manager will inform the Board of any changes to this proposed course of action.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This funding opportunity would have a positive impact of up to \$741,450.

## **PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW**

The proposed action has not been previously reviewed by the Board or a Committee. District staff have brought the following items for Board and Committee Review concerning environmental review for the proposed grant-funded activities and a previous related grant:

- **May 12, 2021:** Board certified the final WFRP Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopted the WFRP ([R-21-58, minutes](#)).
- **June 23, 2021:** Board adopted a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for \$400,000 in Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Program funding ([R-21-20, minutes](#)).
- **September 28, 2022:** Board adopted a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for \$1,080,000 in Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency funding ([R-22-36, minutes](#))

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

## **CEQA COMPLIANCE**

The acceptance of grant funding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). FEMA funding requires compliance with CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The District will be the lead agency for the CEQA process. FEMA will be the lead agency for the NEPA process, with assistance from Cal OES who will provide technical assistance for federal environmental review. All activities receiving compensatory FEMA funding are required to fulfill environmental review requirements.

The forest health and wildland fire management activities to be completed in the four open space preserves include mechanized, handwork treatment, and limited chemical application and are consistent with the WFRP EIR certified by the Board on May 12, 2021. District staff will incorporate 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 by the Board, the General Manager will execute a funding agreement with Cal OES.

### **Attachments:**

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding Resolution.
2. Project Area Maps.

### **Responsible Department Head:**

Stefan Jaskulak, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Services

### **Prepared by:**

Deborah Hirst, Grants Program Manager, Administrative Services

RESOLUTION NO. 23-\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION PROJECT**

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**WHEREAS**, funds were made available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (“PDM”) through the congressional Community Project Funding Program; and

**WHEREAS**, PDM funds will be administered by the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (“Cal OES”) for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“District”); and

**WHEREAS**, the District intends that the Wildland Fire Mitigation Project (“Project”) will implement shaded fuel breaks for community evacuation routes and complete on-the-ground fuel reduction for mitigation of wildfire in four District open space preserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT HEREBY:**

1. Authorizes the General Manager to enter into an agreement for funding requested through the congressional Community Project Funding Program, appropriated to FEMA PDM and administered by Cal OES for the Project.
2. Certifies the District will comply with all federal, state and local environmental, public health, and other appropriate laws and regulations applicable to the Project and will obtain or will ensure that the other project partners obtain all appropriate permits applicable to the project.
3. Authorizes the General Manager or designee as a representative of the District to conduct negotiations, execute, submit and sign all documents including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests, and other documents which may be necessary to administer grant funding for the proposed project.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

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Craig Gleason, Secretary  
Board of Directors

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Yoriko Kishimoto, President  
Board of Directors

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

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Maria Soria, District Clerk









