



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-23-102  
Meeting 23-26  
September 13, 2023

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract to Julian Tree Care, Inc., for Removal of a Former Cultivar Tree Farm at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Julian Tree Care, Inc., of Richmond, California to provide overgrown cultivar tree farm removal and biomass disposal services for a not-to-exceed base contract amount of \$232,300.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency of the base contract in the amount of \$23,230 to cover unforeseen issues.
3. Authorize an allowance of \$58,200 for stump grinding and/or log hauling, if warranted, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$313,730.

### SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) is restoring an approximately 11-acre former tree farm in Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Preserve) to more natural conditions. The District posted a Request for Bids (RFB) on BidSync for tree removal work on July 13, 2023. The General Manager recommends awarding the contract to Julian Tree Care, Inc., of Richmond, California as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for a base contract amount of \$232,300. The General Manager also recommends a 10% contingency in the amount of \$23,230 to cover unforeseen issues. Additionally, the General Manager recommends an allowance of \$58,200 for stump grinding and/or off-site log removal, if warranted, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$313,730. There are sufficient funds in the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24) budget for this scope of services through the end of the fiscal year. Funding for future year budgets to complete the work would be requested as part of the Annual Budget and Action Plan process.

## DISCUSSION

### *Background*

Approximately 12.6 acres of the Preserve constitute a former Christmas tree farm comprised of dense, overgrown cultivar<sup>1</sup> Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees that support minimal native understory and provide low-quality wildlife habitat. In 2019, the District removed cultivar Douglas-fir trees, implemented vegetation management measures, and initiated oak woodland restoration efforts on 1.6 acres of the former Christmas tree farm site. The recommended award of contract completes the restoration by removing the remaining cultivar trees, removing invasive species, and implementing erosion control measures on the final 11 acres in support of long-term site restoration to more natural conditions, such as a coast live oak woodland or a California black oak forest. Both of these ecological communities are considered Sensitive Natural Communities by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and would increase the biodiversity and ecological stability of the area. The restoration of the former Bear Creek Redwoods tree farm is part of the Los Gatos Creek Watershed – Wildland Fire Resiliency project, which furthers the goals of the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP) to complete ecologically sensitive vegetation management that reduces fuel loads and lessens wildfire risk.

The cultivar tree removal work is anticipated to occur in two phases to avoid impacts to nesting birds. The first phase, which will occur across 3.9 acres on the eastern side of Bear Creek Road (see Attachment 1: Project Area Map), is expected to commence no earlier than October 2, 2023 and finish no later than November 15, 2023. The remaining tree removal work, spanning 7.1 acres on the western side of Bear Creek Road, will be initiated in fall of 2024, between September 2 and November 15, 2024. Invasive species present on site will be treated prior to the removal of any trees through the District’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program.

### *Contractor Selection*

The District issued a RFB on July 13, 2023 and advertised in local newspapers, on the District website, and on BidSync. Seven firms attended the mandatory pre-bid tour on July 27, 2023. An Addendum was issued on August 3, 2023 to clarify questions on the RFB received during the pre-bid tour, as well as the Supplemental Conditions and Scope of Work. Bids were due by 11:00 a.m. on August 10, 2023. Only one bid was received prior to the time of bid opening. Another bid was received three minutes after the bid opening and was therefore returned unopened. The results are as follows:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Base Bid</b>	<b>Percent of Cost Estimate of \$450,000</b>
1   Julian Tree Care, Inc.	Richmond, CA	\$232,000	- 52%

Julian Tree Care, Inc., of Richmond, California is the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the project. All work performed under the scope of work would be completed in FY24 and FY25 for a total base bid of \$232,000.

<sup>1</sup>A cultivar is a plant variety that has been selectively bred for commercial use. Cultivars may be derived from native plant species but are genetically distinct.

The General Manager also recommends authorizing a 10% contingency of \$23,200 to cover unforeseen issues, as well as an allowance of \$58,200 for stump grinding and/or off-site log removal should those tasks be deemed necessary, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$313,730.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The FY24 adopted budget includes \$1,110,880 for the Los Gatos Creek Watershed - Wildland Fire Resiliency project #61023, which includes grant funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the state Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) Forest Health Grant Program to implement priority forest health and vegetation management activities on District lands. There are sufficient funds in the project budget to cover the recommended action and expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. Funding for future years budgets will be requested as part of the annual Budget and Action Plan process.

<b>Los Gatos Creek Watershed - Wildland Fire Resiliency #61023</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 10):	\$180,414	\$48,126	\$554,800	\$0	\$0	<b>\$783,340</b>
Grant Amount:	\$62,246	\$1,062,754	\$375,000	\$0	\$0	<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>\$242,660</b>	<b>\$1,110,880</b>	<b>\$929,800</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,283,340</b>
Spent-to-Date (as of 8/14/23):	(\$242,660)	(\$918)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$243,578)</b>
Encumbrances:	\$0	(\$15,800)	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$15,800)</b>
Julian Tree Care, Inc. Contract:	\$0	(\$83,628)	(\$148,672)	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$232,300)</b>
10% Contingency:	\$0	(\$8,363)	(\$14,867)	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$23,230)</b>
Allowance:	\$0	(\$20,952)	(\$37,248)	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$58,200)</b>
<b>Budget Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$981,219</b>	<b>\$729,013</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,710,232</b>

The recommended action is not funded by Measure AA.

### BOARD REVIEW

- **August 14, 2019:** Board approved the award of contract for cultivar tree removal and mitigation plantings at the former Bear Creek Redwoods tree farm site ([R-19-112, meeting minutes](#)).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Public notice was sent to interested parties by postal or electronic mail.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the District's IPM Program, approved by the Board on December 10, 2014 ([R-14-148](#)), 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](#)). The EIR and the addendum to the Final EIR prepared for the District's Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (WFRP), approved by the Board on May 12, 2021 ([R-21-58](#)) and December 14, 2022 ([R-22-145](#)) respectively, further analyzed the environmental impacts of the vegetation management activities in the recommended contract. District staff have incorporated the associated mitigation measures and best management practices from the environmental review documents into the project and contract documents.

## NEXT STEPS

Upon Board approval, the General Manager will enter into a contract with Julian Tree Care, Inc., of Richmond, California.

### Attachments

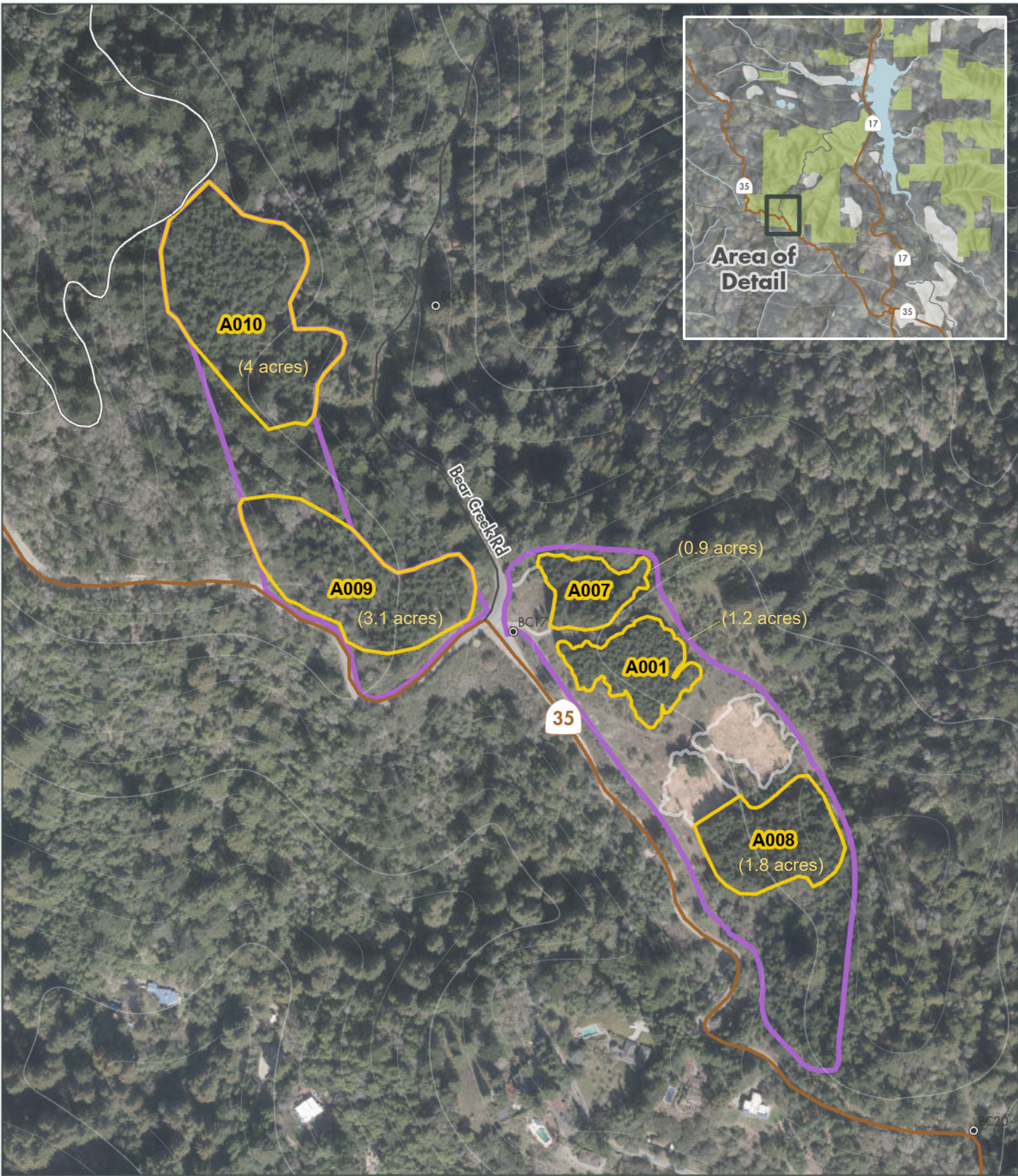
1. Project Location Map

Responsible Department Head:

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources

Prepared by/Contact person:

Arianna Camponuri, Ecologist I, Natural Resources



### Bear Creek Redwoods Tree Farm Restoration Site

- Project Sites
- Christmas Tree Farm Area Footprint

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(Midpen)  
6/5/2023



## ATTACHMENT 1



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.