



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-65
Meeting 26-14
May 13, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract for Trail Design and Engineering for the El Sereno Loop Trail Project, Highway 17 Connector

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Award a contract to Timothy C. Best, Certified Engineering Geologist for \$61,000.
2. Authorize a contingency of 15% in the amount of \$9,150 to cover unforeseen circumstances.
3. Authorize a contract allowance of \$6,000 for additional technical studies beyond those covered in the base contract, if determined necessary, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to \$76,150.

DISCUSSION

On May 22, 2024, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Board of Directors (Board) selected the preferred northern trail overcrossing location for the Highway 17 Regional Trail Crossing and Connections Project. This trail project, which is part of the El Sereno Loop Trail Project, requires services from a qualified consultant to evaluate, design and provide construction oversight for an approximate 1.2 mile proposed trail alignment. This trail, in conjunction with the loop trail, will close a critical link in the regional Bay Area Ridge Trail. The project design objectives include creating an inviting trail for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians to connect the proposed Highway 17 trail overcrossing to the existing Bay Area Ridge Trail in El Sereno Open Space Preserve. Trail construction needs to be completed ahead of the trail overcrossing. The District will use the engineered plans prepared by the consultant to apply for local and regulatory permits. The contract work is expected to cover multiple fiscal years.

Trail Design and Engineering for the El Sereno Loop Trail Project, Highway 17 Trail Connector is anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year 2027.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget for project MAA20-004 El Sereno Loop Trail contains:

- 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.

The following table outlines the Measure AA Portfolio 20: South Bay Foothills — Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements allocation, costs-to-date, projected life-to-date project expenditures and projected portfolio balance remaining.

Portfolio 20: South Bay Foothills — Wildlife Passage and Ridge Trail Improvements	
Portfolio Allocation:	\$13,966,000
Grant Income (through FY29):	\$7,772,531
Fund 40 Allocation:	\$23,150,000
Total Portfolio Allocation:	\$44,888,531
Projected Expenditures:	
20-001 Wildlife Corridor: Highway 17 Crossing	(\$20,919,081)
20-002 Bay Area Ridge Trail: Highway 17 Crossing	(\$21,593,871)
20-003 Edwards Property Acquisition	(\$1,228,194)
20-004 El Sereno Loop Trail	(\$263,123)
Total Projected Expenditures (Life of Project):	(\$44,004,269)
Portfolio Balance Remaining (Proposed):	\$884,262

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on February 20, 2026, to consultants who have previously been pre-qualified by the District pursuant to its purchasing policies. Consultants who received the solicitation were pre-qualified during the August 23 Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFPQ) process for similar services in support of the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail Project. Staff received three (3) bids on March 20, 2026, with Timothy C. Best, CEG., identified as the most qualified proposer at a fair and reasonable price.

Consultant	Location	Proposed Fee
Timothy C. Best, CEG	Santa Cruz	\$60,230
Sherwood Design Engineers	San Francisco	\$268,400
Questa Engineering Corp	Point Richmond	\$196,715

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

- August 28, 2024: Adoption of the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment for the Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings and Trail Connections Project ([R-24-104](#), [meeting minutes](#))

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. In addition, public email notices were sent to the El Sereno Open Space Preserve, Regional Trails, and Highway 17 Crossings interested parties lists.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The award of contract for design and engineering services is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, the General Manager will execute a contract with Timothy C. Best, CEG. Trail Design and Engineering for Bay Area Ridge Trail and Highway 17 Trail Connector Project is anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year 2027.

Attachment

1. Map of Proposed Alignment

Responsible Department Head:

Michael Gorman, Land Stewardship & Trails Manager

Prepared by:

Benjamin Talavera, Management Analyst II, Land Stewardship & Trails Department

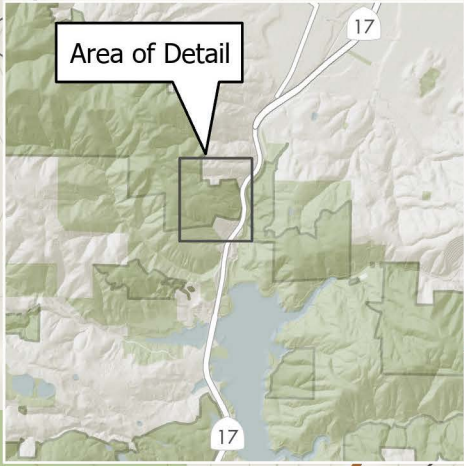
Contact person:

Bryan Apple, Capital Projects Field Manager, Land Stewardship & Trails Department

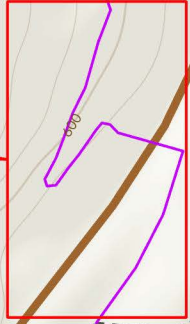
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Created By: bappler

EL SERENO OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



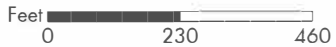
Highway 17 Overcrossing and
Caltrans ROW Improvements by
Others



Attachment 1 - Edwards Connector Trail - Conceptual Layout

 Conceptual Trail Layout

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
2/20/2026



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.