



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-117
Meeting 26-19
August 12, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6

AGENDA ITEM

Contract Amendment with Balance Hydrologics for the Purisima Pond Restoration Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract amendment in the amount of \$57,160 with Balance Hydrologics, Inc. of Santa Cruz, California to provide additional design, material testing, permit reporting, and construction administration services for the Purisima Pond Restoration Project, bringing the contract total to a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$307,701.

DISCUSSION

Purisima Pond is a 0.21-acre stock pond located within Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. The pond's earthen berm was damaged due to erosion from overtopping during the winter storms of 2022/2023 and repairs are required to maintain full functionality of the pond. The pond supports conservation grazing activities within the Lobitos Ridge and Elkus Ranch Uplands (Lobitos) conservation grazing unit by providing a water source for cattle. The pond also supports a population of federally-threatened California red-legged frog. Repairs are scheduled for completion in October 2026 to protect critical habitat while maintaining a water source for coastal conservation grazing. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding has been secured for these repairs.

The District entered into contract with Balance Hydrologics (Balance) in 2025 to provide an assessment of the erosional feature and develop repair plans. The scope of work included a geotechnical investigation, hydrological analysis, permitting support, design services, and construction administration services. During the hydrological analysis and design development phase, Balance identified a relict, in-stream berm within a neighboring unnamed tributary to the north of the pond. The relict berm is actively diverting stream flow overland into Purisima Pond, artificially recharging the pond beyond its intended carrying capacity, posing an ongoing threat to the stability of the berm and pond.

The repair scope of work being completed in 2026 is limited to addressing the damage caused by the FEMA declared disaster storm event of winter 2022/2023 and does not include repairs to address the cause of the pond exceeding its carrying capacity and overtopping the berm. Additional repairs are planned after 2026 (in fall 2027) to address the in-stream channel diversion and further improve the pond and berm.

Balance's current contracted scope of work is limited to addressing the FEMA approved repairs, and an amendment is required to allow Balance to provide the additional design services necessary to address the in-stream diversion and prepare for larger subsequent repairs to fully stabilize the pond site. The additional designs will include corrections to the water rights issue posed by the in-stream diversion, further stabilization of the pond to address the carrying capacity issue, improvements to the existing discharge, and installation of a new secondary overflow spillway. The improvements will reduce the risk of future damage or loss of the pond in the event of future large storm events, as well as mitigate for potential sediment release into Purisima Creek. Additionally, Balance will provide permitting support, material testing, and construction administration services for the additional future repairs scheduled for completion in fall 2027. In the interim, District Land and Facilities Crew will complete periodic inspections of the pond over the upcoming winter and will clear the outlet structure to ensure the pond does not overtop during anticipated strong El Nino storm events.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget for project 61050 Restoration – Purisima Pond contains:

- ☒ sufficient funds.
- ☐ insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of funds 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.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

On October 1, 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposals and Qualifications (RFPQ) via Periscope and performed outreach to qualified firms. A mandatory pre-proposal site visit was held on October 24, 2024, and was attended by representatives from four firms. The District received 3 proposals by the November 15, 2024 deadline. Balance Hydrologics submitted the top-rated proposal and was selected as the most qualified consultant due to their subject matter expertise with pond restoration design services in support of species recovery and conservation grazing. The firm proposed a strategic and streamlined workplan at a fair and reasonable price.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

January 8, 2025: The Board approved a contract with Balance Hydrologics to provide environmental and design services for the Project. ([R-25-06](#), [Meeting Minutes](#))

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The potential environmental impacts for the proposed work of the Project were evaluated in the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program (OSMRP) prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which was certified by the Board on September 22, 2021 ([R-21-126](#)).

NEXT STEPS

If approved, a contract amendment will be executed with Balance Hydrologics, Inc., for additional services. Work is scheduled to begin in August and completed by the end of October 2027.

Attachment

1. Location Map

Responsible Department Head:

Scott Reeves, Engineering & Construction Department

Prepared by/contact person:

Zachary Alexander, Senior Capital Project Manager, Engineering & Construction Department



1. LocationMap

Stream	Trail	Road Centerline	Incorporated Places (City, Town)
Perennial	Abandoned / Unmaintained Road	Highway	
Intermittent	Abandoned / Unmaintained Trail	Major Arterial	
		Local	
Trail			
Paved Road			
Unpaved All-Season Road			
Unpaved Seasonal Road			

Waterbody
Active Pond
Active Wetland
Former Pond
Preserve Boundary

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