



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-85
Meeting 26-16
June 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 8

AGENDA ITEM

Partnership Agreement Extension with Grassroots Ecology for Community Engagement and Native Plant Landscape Maintenance at Cooley Landing Park and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the General Manager to execute a one-year extension of the Partnership Agreement with Grassroots Ecology for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and increase the contribution amount by \$51,750, to a new, not-to-exceed total amount of \$333,250.

DISCUSSION

Grassroots Ecology is an environmental 501(c)(3) nonprofit that focuses on habitat restoration, native plant propagation, and community-based environmental education. Since 2015, Grassroots Ecology has served as an outdoor steward of native plant restoration areas at the City of East Palo Alto's (City) Cooley Landing Park and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Ravenswood Open Space Preserve through a partnership agreement with the District. Portions of Ravenswood Open Space Preserve are operated as part of Cooley Landing Park under a management agreement with the City.

On June 22, 2022, the Board approved a four-year partnership agreement with Grassroots Ecology for community engagement and native plant landscape maintenance at Cooley Landing Park and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve (R-22-76). The agreement was established for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$281,500 and is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026.

The General Manager recommends authorizing a one-year extension of the existing partnership agreement with Grassroots Ecology for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and increasing the contract amount by \$51,750, for a new, not-to-exceed total amount of \$333,250. Through this extension, Grassroots Ecology will continue to deliver service-learning events as part of their native landscape maintenance work at Cooley Landing Park. Furthermore, it provides time for the District and City to evaluate site needs and define a new scope for a future solicitation process in Fiscal Year 2028 to secure the necessary services and enter into a new, long-term partnership/contract agreement for maintaining the native plants and landscaping of the Park and adjoining Preserve.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget 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.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

Grassroots Ecology is a longstanding nonprofit partner with extensive experience implementing habitat restoration, volunteer stewardship, and environmental education programs throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Since 2015, Grassroots has provided service-learning events and native landscape maintenance at Cooley Landing Park and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve under successive partnership agreements with the District.

On June 22, 2022, the Board approved a four-year partnership agreement for community engagement and native plant landscape maintenance at these sites.

The proposed action would extend the existing agreement for one additional year to continue these services while the District develops the scope and procurement approach for a new long-term partnership agreement anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year 2028 (FY 2028). Given

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

The Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to enter into a four-year partnership agreement with Grassroots Ecology for community engagement and native plant landscape maintenance at Cooley Landing Park and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve ([R-22-76](#), [Minutes](#)).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

On July 27, 2011, the Board concurred as the elected body of a Responsible Agency with the findings made by the City of East Palo Alto on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) that was prepared for the Cooley Landing Vision Plan and certified on February 15, 2011. The recommended actions that are part of this Agenda Item are consistent with the MND and MMRP.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the District's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, approved on December 10, 2014 (R-14-148), analyzed the weeding activities in the recommended agreement. On February 27, 2019, the Board approved an addendum to the Final EIR for the IPM Program (R-19-11). District staff have incorporated the associated mitigation measures and BMPs from the environmental review documents into the proposed project and the agreement documents.

NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, the General Manager will execute a one-year extension of the partnership agreement with Grassroots Ecology for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

During Fiscal Year 2027, staff will work with project partners to evaluate program needs, develop a scope of work, and prepare the solicitation process for a new, long-term partnership agreement anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year 2028 (FY 2028).

Responsible Department Head:

Michael Gorman, Land Stewardship & Trails Department

Prepared by/contact person:

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