



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-11-42  
Meeting 11-07  
March 23, 2011

## **AGENDA ITEM 10**

### **AGENDA ITEM**

Approval to Enter into a Three-Year Contract with Ecological Concerns Inc. to Maintain and Monitor Native Vegetation at the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve Tree Farm Restoration Site, Phase III

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the General Manager to enter into an Agreement with Ecological Concerns Inc., for a total contract amount not to exceed \$83,600, to maintain and monitor native vegetation plantings within Phase III of the Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Site. The contract will continue through December 31, 2013, unless terminated earlier by District in accordance with the terms of the contract.

### **DISCUSSION**

In 2009, the Board authorized a three-year landscape maintenance contract to conduct weeding, watering, and monitoring of Phase I of the Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Project (see R-09-22). The contract was amended the following year to include Phase II of the Project. Maintenance in both Phase I and II is continuing on schedule. The overall objectives of the project are to restore eroding slopes and native oak woodlands adjacent to Horseshoe Lake (see attached map).

Landform restoration and replanting of the Phase III area of the Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Project was completed in November 2010. This 3.4 acre site was planted with approximately 440 container plants, 126 acorn sets, and seeded with a mixture of native grasses and forbs. These plantings will require active maintenance for the first several years to ensure their establishment and long-term survival. Site maintenance includes hand weeding around each plant, watering two to three times per month during the dry season, controlling invasive species on the entire site, monitoring to ensure specific standards of native plant survival, and replanting if needed. The level of commitment required to perform these tasks is beyond the budgeted capacity of the Skyline Field Office staff. Consequently, staff recommends that the District enter into a three-year contract with a qualified landscape maintenance firm to ensure the successful implementation of the above tasks. A multi-year agreement maximizes the efficiency of the contracting process, and helps ensure that the site receives consistent care within the critical plant establishment period. Project completion is scheduled for December, 2013.

## CONTRACTOR SELECTION

On February 17, 2011, bid packages were sent to ten (10) local contractors and four (4) local builder's exchanges. Legal notices were posted in the San Mateo County Times, the Half Moon Bay Review, and the Santa Cruz Sentinel. An Invitation to Bid was posted on the District website. A mandatory Pre-bid Conference was held on site on March 1, 2011 and six (6) contractor companies attended. Addenda addressing certain inquiries made after release of the bid package were issued to all participants between March 9 and 14, 2011. On March 17, 2011, four (4) sealed bids were received from prospective contractors located in Berkeley, Clovis, Montara and Santa Cruz, California.

The bidders' qualifications were reviewed by staff and compared to a District cost estimate of \$106,000. Of the four qualified bidders, Ecological Concerns provided the lowest bid, which was 21% lower than the District estimate (see table below). Ecological Concerns, formerly known as Central Coast Wilds, is a well-respected landscape contractor firm focusing solely on native habitat restoration. Their services include seed collection, plant propagation and construction of restoration sites, and they also have extensive experience in maintaining and monitoring native plantings. Ecological Concerns is the current contractor for Phases I and II of the project and has performed well over the last two years. In view of their qualifications, known performance and low bid, staff recommends awarding this contract to Ecological Concerns Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$83,600.

	Bidder	Location	Total Bid	Percent Difference from Cost Estimate of \$106,000
1.	Ecological Concerns	Santa Cruz, CA	\$83,600	-21%
2.	Shelterbelt Builders	Berkeley, CA	\$89,750	-15%
3.	Go Native	Montara, CA	\$103,000	-3%
4.	Clean Cut Landscaping	Clovis, CA	\$103,058	-3%

## FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2011-12 Budget includes \$57,000 for contracted maintenance for the Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Site. Expenditures for this project are estimated to be \$30,000 in FY2012-13 and \$30,000 in FY2-13-14.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice has been provided as required by the Brown Act. No additional public notice is required.

## CEQA COMPLIANCE

A mitigated negative declaration for the Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Project, including the work under this contract, was prepared by District staff and certified in September 2007

(State Clearinghouse Number 2007092093). No further CEQA analysis is required to complete this project.

**NEXT STEPS**

If approved by the Board, the contractor will begin site maintenance in April 2011, following issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Two seasonal monitoring reports (April and June) and one annual monitoring report (August) will be submitted to District staff each year.

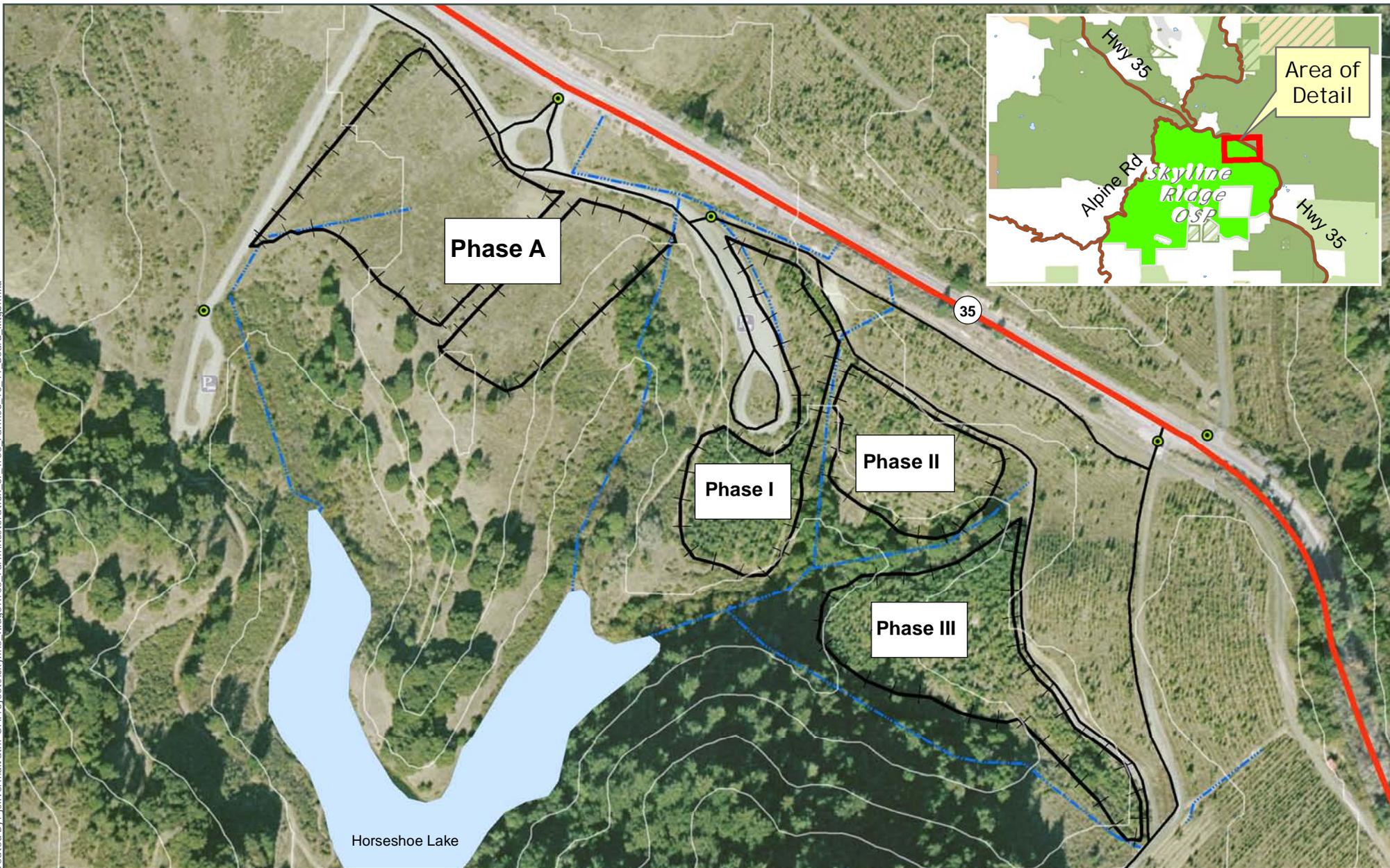
Prepared by:

Joel Silverman, Resource Specialist I

Contact person:

Same as above.

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### Skyline Ridge Tree Farm Restoration Site: All Phases

- Restoration Area
- MROSD Roads
- MROSD Gate
- Intermit. Streams
- Hwy 35 / Skyline Blvd.

Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District  
(MROSD)



March, 2011



While the District strives to use the best available digital data, this data does not represent a legal survey and is merely a graphic illustration of geographic features.