Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-26-168
Meeting 26-27
November 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract to Summitt Forests, Inc., for Mechanical and Manual Fuel Reduction for the Wildland Fire Capacity Project along Alpine Road within two Open Space Preserves

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Award a contract to Summitt Forests, Inc., to complete ~80% grant-funded fuel reduction work along the frontage of Alpine Road within Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves for a base bid amount of $327,913 and a $65,746 bid alternate for a total contract amount of $393,659.

2. Authorize a 15% contingency in the amount of $59,049 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total not-to-exceed contract amount to $452,708.

DISCUSSION

The Wildland Fire Capacity project along the frontage of Alpine Road, located within the Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves, is a strategic initiative to reduce wildfire risk while preserving ecological integrity and wildlife habitat. It is the last component of the larger Wildland Fire Capacity Project #61031. The project area spans approximately three miles along the frontage of Alpine Road, from California State Route 35 (Skyline Boulevard) to Portola State Park Road. The work under the proposed contract is Phase I of the Alpine Road Project.

The Alpine Road Project is an enhanced fire management project, with the intent to increase wildland fire resiliency by enhancing a wildland fire escape route along Alpine Road in the Santa Cruz Mountains and reducing fuels along a potential fire ignition corridor. Note: studies indicate that wildfires are up to four times (4x) more likely to start near roads due to the high concentration of human and mechanical hazards along these corridors. The Alpine Road Project will be performed in two phases. The first phase is the subject of the proposed contract award to Summitt Forests, Inc., (Summitt), and focuses on treating ladder fuels, targeted tree pruning and thinning (removal of smaller trees- particularly Douglas-fir and California bay laurel), and providing traffic control to conduct the work safely in the public road right of way. The second phase, which will be brought to the Board at a later date, will focus on select tree removal, which will be based on a tree inventory being compiled by Rincon Consultants Inc.

The base scope of work for Summitt contract involves conducting manual and mechanical fuel reduction activities within the public road right-of-way up to 50 feet from the road edge.

Additionally, a bid alternate is included that extends fuel reduction work from 50 feet to 100 feet from Alpine Road, creating a wider buffer along the roadway.

Grant Funding
This project is supported by a $1.08 million grant award from the State Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Grant Program and $741,450 from the FEMA Wildfire Mitigation Project grant. It is anticipated that grant funding will cover approximately 80% of this contract's cost.

BUDGET / FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget for project 61031 Wildland Fire Capacity Project – Alpine Road 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.

☐ This Measure AA portfolio contains a funding gap anticipated to be filled through a combination of future portfolio reallocation requests, grants, partnership funding, interest income allocations, value engineering, and Fund 40 General Fund Capital monies.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

On September 18, 2026, a Request for Bids (RFB) was issued via BidNet and sent directly to qualified contractors with a link to the solicitation was posted on the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) website. A mandatory site tour was held on September 30, 2026, with 12 contractor representatives in attendance.

The District received and publicly opened three (3) bids on October 9, 2026. Summitt was announced as the apparent low bidder at the bid opening. The detailed breakdown of bids received is as follows:

Contractor	Location	Base Bid*	Bid Alternate	Total Combined Bid	Percent Over/Under Estimate
Summitt Forests, Inc.	Ashland, Oregon	$327,913	$65,746	$393,659	30.23 % below
Denali Tree Service	Los Gatos, CA	$596,880	$301,100	$897,980	27% above
Bay Area Tree Specialist	San Jose, CA	$728,000	$923,000	$1,651,000	54.89% above

** Per the Bid Package, bids were evaluated on the base bid only.*

In addition to the base scope, the bid package included an add alternate that addresses additional, critical fuel reduction along Alpine Road, extending the defensive clearance out to 100 feet from the road edge. Since the combined pricing submitted by Summitt remains well within the District's budget for this work, the General Manager recommends awarding both the base and add alternate scope to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Summitt, to maximize regional fire resilience.

Contingency Amount
The General Manager recommends a 15% contingency in the amount of $59,049 to address unforeseen field conditions, such as clearing storm-damaged debris, extended traffic control needs, or required biomonitoring if sensitive species are encountered.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION SUPPORTING THE PROJECT

September 28, 2022: Board adopted a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the State Coastal Conservancy for up to $1,080,000 in funds from their Wildfire Resilience Program. (R-22-108, Meeting Minutes)

August 9, 2023: Board adopted a resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a grant funding agreement with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for up to $741,450 in FEMA funds from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. (R-23-81, Meeting Minutes)

July 8, 2026: Board approved Award of Contract to Rincon Consultants for Tree Inventory & Hazard Assessment, Biological Monitoring, and Project Management Services for the Wildland Fire Capacity Project along the frontage of Alpine Road within Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge Open Space Preserves. (R-26-107, Meeting Minutes)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The Wildland Fire Capacity Project received CEQA compliance through the Wildland Fire Resiliency Program EIR as certified by the Board on May 12, 2021 (R-21-58).

NEXT STEPS

Pending Board approval, the General Manager will execute a contract with Summitt to begin Phase I of the fuel reduction of the Alpine Road Project.

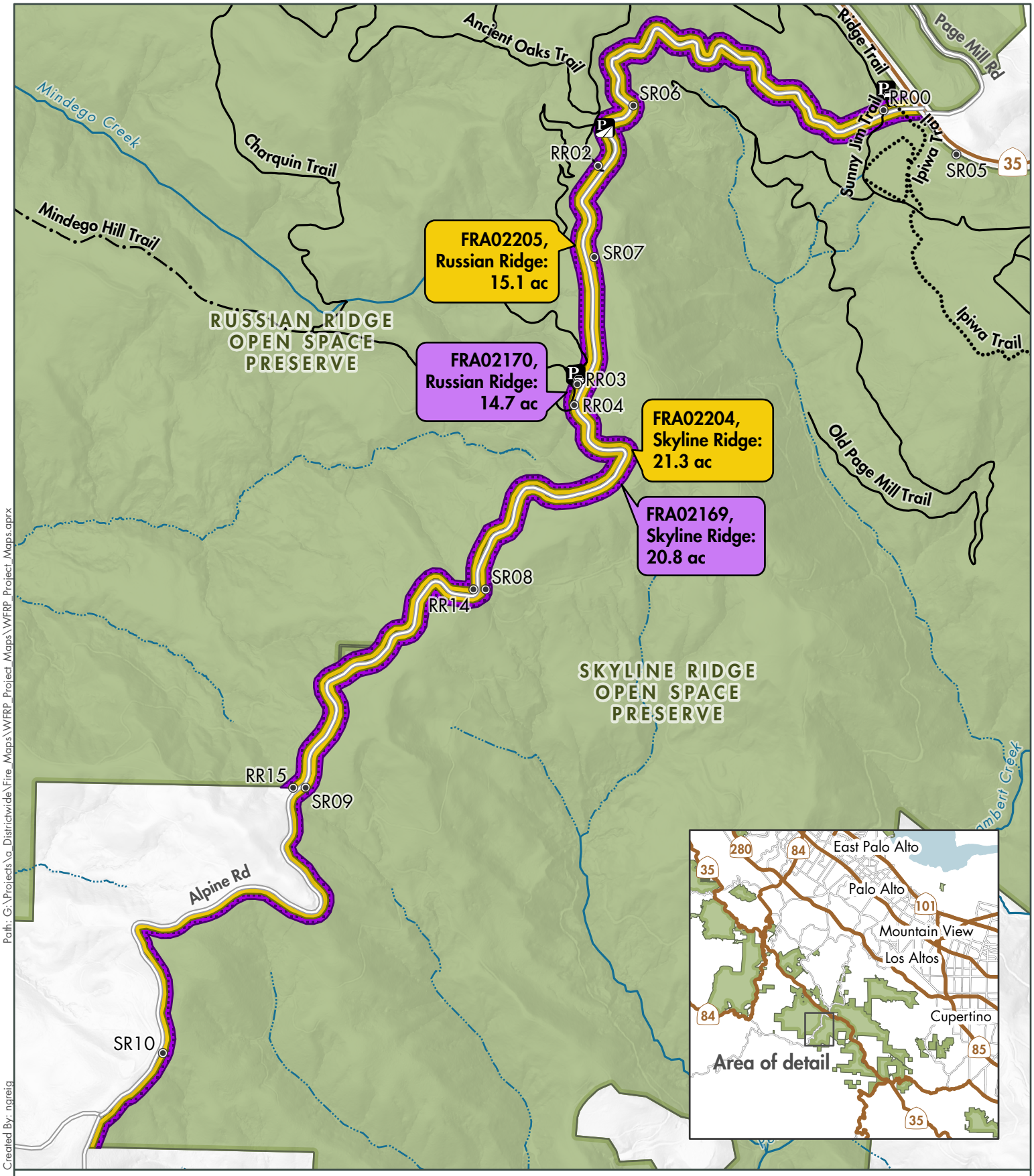
Rincon Consultants Inc. is currently in the process of finalizing a tree inventory for the Alpine Road Project, which will include recommendations for tree work for Phase II of the Alpine Road Project. Once completed, this will form the basis for bidding out the next phase of fuel reduction work along the Alpine Road frontage.

Attachment

1. Location Map

Responsible Department Head:
Michael Gorman, Land Stewardship and Trails Department

Prepared by:
Benjamin Talavera, Management Analyst II, Land Stewardship and Trails Department



Path: G:\Projects\a_Districtwide\Fire_Maps\WFRP_Project_Maps\WFRP_Project_Maps.aprx

Created By: ngreig

Wildland Fire Capacity Project - Alpine Road

- Midpen preserve
- 0' to 50' from edge of pavement
- 50' to 100' from edge of pavement

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
(Midpen)
9/1/2026

Miles 0 0.125 0.25

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.