



DATE: September 23, 2015

MEMO TO: Board of Directors

THROUGH: Stephen E. Abbors, General Manager

FROM: Aaron Hébert, Project Manager

SUBJECT: Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Policy Implementation as part of the Mindego Ranch Demolition Project

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## SUMMARY

This memorandum serves to explain how the C&DWD strategies were integrated in the Board-approved Mindego Ranch Remediation and Demolition Project (Project).

## DISCUSSION

In January 2015, the Board adopted the Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion (C&DWD) policy (4.08) with the goal of diverting 100% of recyclable materials from landfills. This policy applies to public works contracts and directs staff to identify materials for salvage and recycling to meet that goal. The recycling and sorting of construction and demolition materials is largely taken care of at waste collection sites, whereas salvage takes place during the course of construction and demolition activities and is transported to a retail facility. Every demolition project is evaluated by District project managers to determine the salvage potential.

The recently-completed Mindego Ranch Remediation and Demolition Project included the demolition of 'The 'Old True House', which was built in 1954 and constructed with large redwood beams. Hand deconstruction to salvage the beams was deemed too expensive and posed additional risk and potential harm to the San Francisco Garter Snake, an endangered species, by extending the total duration of the project. Instead, the District selected a more expedient yet careful demolition approach that involved an excavator and expert operator to carefully bring down the structure, as well as the assistance of two laborers to hand salvage 16 redwood beams from the downed material (see pictures below). The cost for the careful demolition, additional labor, and trucking totaled \$1,150. However, the District was credited \$485 for the amount the beams will retail at the contractor's salvage retail facility, resulting in an actual net cost to the District of \$665 to salvage the redwoods beams. This additional expense was offset by savings from other parts of the demolition and by the total carbon emissions that have been saved from the salvaged material. As reference, a 2011 study from the Environmental Protection Agency titled *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Recycling and Composting* noted that the recycling of one ton of dimensional lumber results in the reduction of approximately 2.46 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. The beams are estimated to weigh half a ton.

Redwood Beams Salvaged from "Old True House"

