



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-19-10  
Meeting 19-02  
January 23, 2019

## AGENDA ITEM 5

### AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract for Vegetation Mapping Services in San Mateo County

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a multi-year cooperative agreement with Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy of San Francisco, California, who is the lead in contracting for regional vegetation mapping services, for an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
2. Authorize a 12% contingency of \$18,000 to request additional mapping services, if deemed beneficial and appropriate, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$168,000.

### SUMMARY

To inform land management needs in San Mateo County, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) seeks to collaborate with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC) and other regional open space partners to produce seamless vegetation mapping and data products for all of San Mateo County. This map and data will support future project planning and resource protection efforts by providing staff with higher resolution data of existing natural resource conditions, which will form a baseline by which to compare future survey data. The General Manager recommends awarding a cooperative agreement with GGNPC to take the lead in retaining vegetation mapping services for a base amount not to exceed \$150,000, and authorizing a 12% contingency amount of \$18,000. There are sufficient funds in the Fiscal Year 2018-19 project budget to cover the recommended action and anticipated scope of services for this fiscal year.

### BACKGROUND

San Mateo County's land managing agencies and stewards have the responsibility of caring for a diverse mix of ecosystems, including estuarine, marine, oak woodland, redwood forest, coastal scrub and oak savannah. Home to more than 112,000 acres of protected lands, the county's open spaces provide county residents, neighbors, and visitors with water, varied recreation opportunities, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and vital refuges for many threatened, endangered, and special status species. The county's natural resources provide numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits that are vitally interlinked to the county's communities. However, the health of the county's natural resources are threatened by global climate change, altered fire regimes, invasive non-native plants and animals, habitat fragmentation, plant diseases and pathogens, noise, light, and air pollution, and other human and natural impacts.

To care effectively for the county's ecosystems and infrastructure, resource and land managers must know the location and distribution of those ecosystems across the county, and have the ability to monitor change overtime. Unfortunately, there are serious gaps in knowledge about the vegetation and landscapes of San Mateo County. In 2006, the District acquired fine-scale vegetation maps for preserves and filled in county gaps with low-resolution statewide vegetation mapping data. A comprehensive, countywide, fine-scale vegetation map has never been completed, hampering cross-ownership planning and often resulting in incomplete or piecemeal analysis. The new vegetation map will update the San Mateo County portions of the 2006 map.

This project will also allow the District to address more effectively a California Environmental Quality Act mitigation requirement from the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Integrated Pest Management Program (R-14-148) that calls for the development of a landscape-level monitoring program.

This interagency collaborative project will result in improved scientific understanding of vegetation conditions on all lands in San Mateo County. This information will allow the District to make better decisions, inform multiagency efforts to manage the wildland-urban interface for fire and fuel projects, and provide baseline information that can be used to assess changes following landscape level events, such as wildfire.

## **DISCUSSION**

Having accurate and consistent San Mateo countywide spatial vegetation data will be an invaluable tool in managing and monitoring the county's fire and flood hazards, its critical habitats, and the resiliency of habitats to climate change impacts. To address these needs, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and other open space partners in San Mateo County are working together to achieve the common goal of developing a fine scale countywide vegetation map and landscape database.

The GGNPC is currently supporting a parallel countywide vegetation mapping effort in Marin County with broad local and regional support. Similarly, the GGNPC's partners in San Mateo County will contribute expertise to the project's ecological design and goals, and provide resources to support and implement the work. For this project, the GGNPC's staff will provide centralized data management, project management support, and fundraising.

Support for this project is both broad and substantial as illustrated by Table 1, which lists the partners who have pledged funding for this project. Table 2 includes the anticipated budget to complete the project. Other organizations have voiced support for the project and are providing expert advice, as appropriate, including California State Parks, the California Native Plant Society, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Mateo Resource Conservation District, and Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Table 1 – Funding Partners and Amount Pledged

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Pledged Amount</b>
National Park Service	\$407,339
San Mateo County Parks	\$50,000
San Mateo County (various departments)	\$195,000
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	\$150,000
Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 802,339</b>

Table 2 – Anticipated Budget to Complete the Project

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>
Project management and administration	\$54,000
6-inch ortho imagery acquisition and post processing	\$58,276
San Mateo countywide vegetation classification production: field data acquisition and analysis	\$261,733
National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Compliance	\$15,000
Fine-scale vegetation map production and accuracy assessment	\$498,855
Optional 1-foot contour production	\$5,000
Optional Relative cover for forested stands layer upgrade	\$22,417
Optional Impervious surfaces layer upgrade	\$26,658
Optional San Mateo Fuels Mapping, including ladder fuels proxy	\$29,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$971,439</b>

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The adopted FY2018-19 budget includes sufficient funds to cover the recommended action and expenditures in the Natural Resources Department operating budget (services and supplies) for Vegetation Management. Future year expenditures would be included in the annual Budget and Action Plan process.

<b>San Mateo Vegetation Map Services</b>	<b>FY 2018-19</b>	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
Award of Proposed Contract	\$50,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	<b>\$150,000</b>
Contingency (12%)	\$6,000	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$3,600	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b>Total Not To Exceed:</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>	<b>\$39,200</b>	<b>\$39,200</b>	<b>\$33,600</b>	<b>\$168,000</b>

The recommended action and expenditures are not eligible for Measure AA reimbursement.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

A Board Committee did not previously review this item.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Public notice was also sent to 127 interested parties by US mail and/or electronic mail.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Funding the agreement to create a vegetation map is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. However, this project will address more effectively the California Environmental Quality Act requirement from the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Integrated Pest Management Program (R-14-148) to develop a landscape-level monitoring program.

**NEXT STEPS**

Following Board approval, the General Manager will execute a contract with Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for a four-year period beginning in FY2018-19. In addition, staff will investigate the possibility of collaborating on a similar project for Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties.

Responsible Department Heads:

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources

Garrett Dunwoody, Information Services and Technology

Prepared by:

Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist Natural Resources

Casey Hiatt, GIS Administrator