



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-19-14  
Meeting 19-66  
May 22, 2019

## AGENDA ITEM 5

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Award of Contract with Questa Engineering to Complete the First Phase of Work (Assessment, Schematic Design, Technical Studies for Regulatory Permitting, and Biological/Cultural Services) for the Phase II Trail Network at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into contract with Questa Engineering for assessment, schematic design, technical studies for regulatory permitting, and biological/cultural work to begin implementation of the Phase II Trail network at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, for a base contract amount not-to-exceed \$225,000.
2. Authorize a 15% contingency of \$33,750 to be awarded if necessary to cover unforeseen conditions, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$258,750.

### SUMMARY

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) seeks assistance from a qualified consultant team of design, environmental, and cultural resources professionals to initiate the design, engineering, and permitting for the Bear Creek Redwoods Phase II Trail network (VP21-003). Staff released a Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) on February 12, 2019. The General Manager recommends awarding a contract to Questa Engineering for a base amount not to exceed \$225,000 and authorizing a 15% contingency of \$33,750. The contract work is anticipated to cover multiple fiscal years. There are sufficient funds in the adopted Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 budget to cover the anticipated scope of services for this fiscal year. Additional funds are included in the proposed FY2019-20 budget. The scope of work under the recommended contract is limited to the first phase of project work (assessment, schematic design, technical studies for regulatory agency permitting, and biological/cultural services). Once the Board reviews and approves the schematic trail designs, staff will return with a contract amendment to complete the construction documents, secure permits, and provide construction administration services for the project. The Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan identifies up to four miles of trail in Phase II (1.2 miles of new trail construction and 2.8 miles of upgrades to existing roads and trails).

### BACKGROUND

In January 2017, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and certified the Environmental Impact Report. The Preserve Plan identifies a phased implementation of the trail network. Phase II of the Preserve Plan includes the construction of new trails, improvements to existing roads and trails, and new stream crossing infrastructure.

The Phase II trail system will offer preserve users the opportunity for hiking and equestrian use throughout the northeastern portion of the Preserve, along with bicycling use on the designated Multi-use Trail. The Bear Creek Redwoods Phase II Trails Project includes the following elements:

- New multi-use trail segments;
- Stream crossing improvements, new retaining wall, and other associated trail structures;
- Upgrades to existing roads and trails for patrol, emergency and, public access.
- Closure, and where appropriate, restoration of redundant or overly steep dirt pathways.

Recent capital improvement projects throughout the District have resulted in significant environmental mitigation requirements that can require five (5) to ten (10) years of restoration and/or monitoring work. Using lessons learned, staff would work closely with the Questa Engineering to develop a holistic design and permitting approach for the Phase II trail network to minimize potential impacts and reduce mitigation and monitoring requirements.

## DISCUSSION

### *Consultant Selection*

On February 12, 2019, staff released a Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) on BidSync and posted notification on the District website. Thirteen (13) firms attended the mandatory pre-proposal site tour on February 20, 2019 at Bear Creek Redwoods. The following two teams submitted proposals by the April 4, 2019 deadline.

Firm	Location	Proposed Phase I Fees
Questa Engineering Corp	Point Richmond, CA	\$225,000
Waterways Consulting, Inc	Santa Cruz, CA	\$410,968

Staff reviewed the proposals and scored the teams based on project approach; team experience with similar projects; experience with regulatory agency permitting; and acceptance of District agreement conditions and insurance requirements. After careful review of both proposals, Questa Engineering was deemed most qualified and best suited for the project at a fair and reasonable price. Questa Engineering, along with their sub-consultants Sequoia Ecological and Basin Research Associates demonstrated expertise in design and engineering for trail projects, completing prior biological/cultural assessments, and negotiating permit requirements with regulatory agencies.

The complete Project includes the following main tasks and associated fees. The items listed in bold (Tasks 1 through 4) total \$225,000 and are the subject of the proposed contract with Questa Engineering. Once the full Board reviews and approves the schematic trail trails, the General Manager will return with a contract amendment to complete the remaining items of work listed below as Tasks 5 through 8. Tasks 1 through 4 account for approximately 63% of the total estimated design and permitting fee.

Task	Fees
<b>1 – Review Existing Information</b>	<b>\$3,273</b>
<b>2 – Multi-Use Trail Feasibility</b>	<b>\$30,230</b>
<b>3 – Permitting Strategy and Technical Studies</b>	<b>\$111,137</b>
<b>4 – Site Investigation/Alternatives Analysis</b>	<b>\$80,360</b>
5 – 65% Plans, Specifications, & Cost Estimate (PS&E)	\$26,680*
6 – Regulatory Permit Application Preparation	\$44,718*
7 – 90% and 100% PS&E	\$33,320*
8 – Bidding, Construction Administration, and Project Closeout	\$22,510*

*\*Represent estimated costs; these costs will be refined once the Site Investigations and Alternatives Analysis are completed and approved.*

## FISCAL IMPACT

The FY2018-19 budget includes \$25,000 for the Bear Creek Redwoods Phase II Trail project (VP21-003). There are sufficient funds in the budget to cover the recommended actions and expenditures this fiscal year (Task 1). Budgets for Tasks 2 through 4, if approved by the Board, will be included in the upcoming FY2019-20 budget. Future fiscal year budgets are projected and will be adopted as part of the annual Budget and Action Plan process.

VP21-003 Phase II Trail Improvements, Bear Creek Redwoods OSP	Prior Year Actuals	FY2018-19 Amended	FY2019-20 Projected	FY2020-21 Projected	Estimated Future Years	TOTAL
District Funded (Fund 40 - GF Capital):	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$25,000</b>
Grant Amount:	\$0	\$0	\$277,250	\$320,000	\$1,505,000	<b>\$2,102,250</b>
<b>Total VP21-003 Budget:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$277,250</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$1,505,000</b>	<b>\$2,127,250</b>
Spent-to-Date (as of 04/22/19):	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Encumbrances:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Questa Engineering Contract:	\$0	(\$3,273)	(\$221,727)	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$225,000)</b>
Contract Contingency 15%:	\$0	\$0	(\$33,750)	\$0	\$0	<b>(\$33,750)</b>
<b>Budget Remaining (Proposed):</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,727</b>	<b>\$21,773</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>	<b>\$1,505,000</b>	<b>\$1,868,500</b>

## BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Board adopted a resolution that approved the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (R-17-15) on January 25, 2017. The Preserve Plan identified the construction of new trails and stream crossings in the eastern zone of the Preserve as a Phase II Key Action.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Potential environmental impacts of the Bear Creek Redwoods Phase II Trails and associated improvements were analyzed in the Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve Plan and Environmental Impact Report, which was certified by the Board on January 25, 2017.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board authorization, the General Manager will direct staff to enter into contract with Questa Engineering to initiate the assessment, schematic design, technical studies necessary for regulatory agency permitting, and biological/cultural investigations. Staff will work with the consultant to complete the first phase of work under the contract. The Board will receive a presentation with design options once the site investigations and alternatives analysis have been completed. Award of subsequent project design phases, as well as the future construction contract, will come back to the Board for review and approval at future dates.

## Attachment

1. Bear Creek Redwoods Phase II Proposed Trail Network and Associated Improvements

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