



Midpeninsula Regional  
Open Space District

R-20-94  
Meeting 20-19  
August 26, 2020

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### AGENDA ITEM

Acceptance of Funding from the California Conservation Corps for the Coal Creek Area Fuel Break Project

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a resolution accepting Proposition 68 grant funding from the California Conservation Corps and adopt a resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for the Coal Creek Area Fuel Break Project.

#### SUMMARY

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) has an opportunity to receive up to \$232,358 in Proposition 68 funding from the California Conservation Corps (CCC) in support of the Coal Creek Area Fuel Break Project (Project). All work associated with the Project will conform with the District's Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP) requirements.

#### BACKGROUND

The District's approach to ecologically-sensitive vegetation management aims to reduce the threat of larger, hotter and catastrophic wildfires similar to those seen across other parts of California in recent years as a result of climate change and a shifting in temperatures, rainfall, fog cover, and soil moisture. Vegetation management for fuels reduction slows the spread of fire, affording additional time for responding fire personnel to arrive on scene and engage the fire to reduce the damage and spread, as well as time for residents in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to safely evacuate.

In response to the Board of Director's 2020 Strategic Goals and Objectives, which includes Goal 2, Objective 3: "*Work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety*", staff dedicated time and effort during the Summer 2020 to identify wildland fire grant funding opportunities to support this work. As a result, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) Prop 68 funding opportunity was identified as an excellent funding match for the Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break (Coal Creek Project). The Coal Creek Project is designated as a high priority fuel reduction project by the CalFire San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit and meets the priority criteria from the District's proposed Wildland Fire Resiliency Program. If the grant funding is approved, all work will need to be completed by May 31, 2021 per CCC grant requirements. To meet the timing requirements and leverage the funding, the District is seeking the assistance of an outside project manager to help manage and oversee the project.

Depending on costs, a separate project manager contract may come before the Board at a later date for approval.

## DISCUSSION

The Coal Creek Project will complete nearly 50 acres of shaded and non-shaded fuel breaks in the vicinity of 15 residential inholding parcels that are surrounded by the Preserve. By removing fuel along roads in this WUI residential area, the Project will enhance the safety of Preserve visitors, adjacent community residents, and first responders and employees who enter the Preserve.

The District has completed extensive analysis of fire risk and fuel reduction priorities as part of the proposed Wildland Fire Resiliency Program (<https://www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/wildland-fire-resiliency>). Substantial fuel exists downslope from this residential area, adjacent to Highway 35. The need for this fuel break is high and the project is identified as a priority for the Interior San Mateo County Planning Area of the San Mateo-Santa Cruz County Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (CWPP) by CalFire. CalFire's High Severity Fire Hazard map reflects that this area is in the High Severity category. Letters of support for the project were provided to the grantor by CalFire, Supervisor Don Horsley, San Mateo Resource Conservation District, and South Skyline Fire Safe Council ([Letters of Support](#)). The Project can be completed prior to the adoption of the Wildlife Fire Resiliency Program Environmental Impact Report as the work can fall within the District's 2019 Invasive Plan Management Environmental Impact Report (IPM EIR).

The District proposes to partner with the CCC and engage Corps member labor to complete the vegetation removal by hand and with appropriate mechanical support. This project was not originally scheduled for FY2021. However, the General Manager authorized staff to pursue the grant opportunity given the high likelihood of approval to support Board goals on wildland fire prevention and preparation. Land and Facilities staff are already fully resource loaded for the grant period and this project will not be possible without the support of a contracted project manager. Staff and other Wildland Fire Coordination Team members developed a Request for Proposal and Qualifications (RFPQ) to solicit a qualified project manager that can implement the fuel reduction project with the CCC crew under District oversight and meet the May 2021 grant deadline. As part of the grant partnership, District staff will provide Corps members with orientation and training on protected special status species, native plants, forest health, and climate change resilience. Paths to careers in open space, climate resilience, and regional partnerships for conservation in the San Francisco Bay Area will also be discussed in the context of the District's mission.

Upon project completion, the District will need to submit a project completion packet, including a final project map, final project photos, a project close-out letter, and other administrative documentation. Additionally, the District will post temporary Proposition 68 signage that acknowledges the grant.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Project costs are estimated at \$535,358, to be funded by a \$232,358 Prop 68 grant and \$306,000 in matching District funds, including costs for biological and wildlife surveys, spike (camping) food costs, heavy equipment, \$60,000 for a contracted project manager, and \$27,000 in staff time

(Maintenance Supervisor and/or Lead Open Space Technician). No new employee positions would be added for the Project.

This Project was not scheduled for FY2021 and therefore, funding was not included in this year’s Budget and Action Plan. The District match will partially be funded via project savings and partially via an Unassigned Fund Balance, utilizing the \$143,500 of excess FY21 Revenue over Expenditures and \$22,080 of accumulated Unassigned Fund Balance.

**Coal Creek Fuel Break Funding Sources**

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Prop 68 Grant:		\$ 232,358
District Match:		
Personnel Cost	\$	27,000
Fund 40 Savings	\$	113,420
Unassigned Fund Balance (1)	\$	143,500
Unassigned Fund Balance (2)	\$	22,080
District Match		\$ 306,000
Total Project Cost		\$ 538,358

- (1) FY21 excess revenue over budgeted expenditures
- (2) Use of Unassigned Fund Balance

This project is not eligible for Measure AA funding.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW**

This report was not previously reviewed by a committee.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE**

Applying for funding is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the District’s IPMP, which the Board approved on December 10, 2014 (R-14-148) and updated through an Addendum to the Final EIR (R-19-11), analyzed the vegetation management activities that would occur as part of this Corps work. The mitigation measures and BMPs identified in the EIR are incorporated into the project.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon Board approval and adoption of the proposed resolution, the General Manager will execute the grant agreement and make the necessary budget amendments.

Attachments

1. Resolution authorizing the acceptance of \$232,258 of Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Proposition 68 Grant Program Funding from the California Conservation Corps for the Coal Creek Area Fuel Break Project.
2. Resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget pertaining to the Coal Creek Fuel Break Project.
3. CCC Prop 68 Coal Creek Project – Letters of Support.

Responsible Department Head:

Stefan Jaskulak, CFO/Director of Administrative Services

Prepared by:

Jordan McDaniel, Senior Grants & Procurement Technician

Staff contact:

Deborah Hirst, Grants Program Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF \$232,258 OF FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 PROPOSITION 68 GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE COAL CREEK AREA FUEL BREAK PROJECT**

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**WHEREAS**, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) is a state department within the California Natural Resources Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018, was passed by the voters in June 2018. It added Section 5096.611, Section 75089.5 and Division 45 (commencing with Section 80000) to the Public Resources Code, and Section 79772.5 to the Water Code. Section 80136 of Chapter 10: Climate Preparedness, Habitat Resiliency, Resource Enhancement, and Innovation authorizes the Legislature to appropriate \$40,000,000 to the CCC for natural resource conservation projects.

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the CCC FY 2020-2021 Proposition 68 grant program is to fund projects that plan, develop and implement climate adaptation and resiliency.

**WHEREAS**, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“District”) has applied for California Conservation Corps grant funding for the Coal Creek Fuel Break Project (“the project”); and

**WHEREAS**, the District will enter into an agreement with the CCC to carry out the project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hereby:**

1. Approves the award of grant funding from the California Conservation Corps for the project.
2. Certifies the District has or will have sufficient funds to complete and, following completion, to operate and maintain the project.
3. Agrees to provide any funds beyond the grant funding provided by the California Conservation Corps necessary to complete the project.
4. Certifies that the applicant has reviewed, understands, and agrees to the provisions contained in the contract shown in the Grant Administration Guide; and
5. Agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and guidelines.
6. Authorizes the General Manager, or designee, to make minor revisions as needed before execution of the grant agreement.

- 7. Authorizes the General Manager, or designee, to act as a representative of the grantee, to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jed Cyr, Secretary  
Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Holman, President  
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk

## RESOLUTION NO. 20-\_\_

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT AMENDING  
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2020 the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District adopted the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021 (FY21) Budget and Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 22, 2020 the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District amended the FY21 Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Manager recommends amending the FY21 Budget to reflect additional revenue from a Proposition 68 California Conservation Corps grant.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District does resolve as follows:

**SECTION ONE.** Approve the proposed Coal Creek Fuel Break Project revenue amendments to the FY21 Budget for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District resulting in a net increase as follows:

DISTRICT REVENUE BY FUNDING SOURCE	FY21 Adopted Budget	YTD Budget Amendments	Amended Budget (as of 7/22/2020)	Proposed Budget Amendments	FY21 Proposed Amended Budget
Fund 10 - General Fund Operating	\$36,917,325	\$0	\$36,917,325	\$367,858	\$37,285,183
Fund 20 - Hawthorn Fund	110,200	0	110,200	0	110,200
Fund 30 - MAA Land/Capital	12,280,063	1,075,000	13,355,063	0	13,355,063
Fund 40 - General Fund Land/Capital	15,856,328	0	15,856,328	(113,420)	15,742,908
Fund 50 - Debt Service	16,920,115	0	16,920,115	0	16,920,115
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$82,084,031</b>	<b>\$1,075,000</b>	<b>\$83,159,031</b>	<b>\$254,438</b>	<b>\$83,413,469</b>

**SECTION TWO.** Approve the recommended Coal Creek Fuel Break Project budget amendments to the FY21 Budget for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District resulting in a net increase as follows:

DISTRICT BUDGET BY FUNDING SOURCE	FY21 Adopted Budget	YTD Budget Amendments	Amended Budget (as of 7/22/2020)	Proposed Budget Amendments	FY21 Proposed Amended Budget
Fund 10 - General Fund Operating	\$36,773,825	\$0	\$36,773,825	\$511,358	\$37,285,183
Fund 20 - Hawthorn Fund	110,200	0	110,200	0	110,200
Fund 30 - MAA Land/Capital	11,868,588	1,075,000	12,943,588	0	12,943,588
Fund 40 - General Fund Land/Capital	15,856,328	0	15,856,328	(113,420)	15,742,908
Fund 50 - Debt Service	16,640,925	0	16,640,925	0	16,640,925
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$81,249,866</b>	<b>\$1,075,000</b>	<b>\$82,324,866</b>	<b>\$397,938</b>	<b>\$82,722,804</b>

**SECTION THREE.** Monies are hereby appropriated in accordance with said budget by fund.

**SECTION FOUR.** Except as herein modified, the FY21 Budget and Action Plan, Resolution No. 20-18 as amended, shall remain in full force and effect.

\* \* \* \* \*

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, at a regular meeting thereof, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jed Cyr, Secretary  
Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Holman, President  
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hilary Stevenson, General Counsel

I, the District Clerk of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by the above vote at a meeting thereof duly held and called on the above day.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Woodworth, District Clerk



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Drawer F2  
6059 Highway 9  
Felton, CA 95018  
(831) 335-6740  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



May 14, 2020

Janet Wolhgemuth  
California Conservation Corps  
Monterey Bay Center  
30 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076

**RE: Support for Prop 68 Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break Project**

Dear Ms. Wohlgemuth:

I am writing to express my support for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (Midpen) Prop 68 Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break Project and application for \$222,000 in funding from the California Conservation Corps' Proposition 68 Program.

The need for this fuel break is high and the project is identified as a priority for the Interior San Mateo County Planning Area in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz County Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (Page 85, CWPP 2018). This approximately 15-home residential area is an inholding surrounded by Midpen's Coal Creek Open Space Preserve in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The current CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone map reflects that this area is in the High Severity category and implementing a fuel break in this residential area will directly address this community's safety and benefit the public use of surrounding open space at the Coal Creek Open Space Preserve.

As a member of the San Mateo County Fire Safe Council, Midpen is active in collaboration on regional priorities and the proposed project addresses fuel reduction and a fire break where an extreme weather event with a north wind pattern could result in loss of life and structures on the way up a ridgeline in this Wildland Urban Interface area. Midpen is seeking California Conservation Corps (CCC) Corpsmember assistance for fuel reduction and can offer training for Corpsmembers from Ranger and Natural Resources staff on topics including natural resources, paths to work at Midpen, and approaches to climate resilience in resource management being developed for forest management and fire risk reduction.

Thank you for your consideration of providing funding for this regionally important project.

Sincerely,

*Original Signature on file at Felton HQ*

Richard Sampson, RPF #2422  
Forest Practice Inspector  
6059 Highway 9 P.O. Drawer F-2  
Felton, CA 95018  
(831) 335-6740

**From:** [Don Horsley](#)  
**To:** [Deborah Hirst](#)  
**Subject:** Don Horsley support for Coal Creek Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2020 11:27:41 AM

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EXTERNAL

May 16, 2020

Janet Wohlgemuth  
California Conservation Corps  
Monterey Bay Center  
30 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076

**RE: Support for Prop 68 Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break Project**

Dear Ms. Wohlgemuth:

I am writing to express strong support for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (Midpen) Prop 68 Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break Project and application for \$222,000 in funding from the California Conservation Corps' Proposition 68 Program.


The need for this fuel break is high and the project is identified as a priority for the Interior San Mateo County Planning Area of the San Mateo-Santa Cruz County Community Wildfire Prevention Plan (Page 85, CWPP 2018). This approximately 15-home residential area is an inholding surrounded by Midpen's Coal Creek Open Space Preserve in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Calfire's High Severity Fire Hazard map reflects that this area is in the High Severity category and implementing a fuel break in this residential area will directly address this community's safety and benefit the public use of surrounding open space at the Coal Creek Open Space Preserve.

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being developed for forest management and fire risk reduction.

Thank you for your consideration of providing funding for this regionally important project. Please feel free to contact me if you need further support.

Sincerely Yours,



**San Mateo County Supervisor Don  
Horsley**

400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
650-363-4569 (office)  
[dhorsley@smcgov.org](mailto:dhorsley@smcgov.org)



May 14, 2020

Janet Wohlgemuth  
California Conservation Corps  
Monterey Bay Center  
30 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076

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Thank you for your consideration of providing funding for this regionally important project.

Sincerely,



Sheena Sidhu  
Forest Health and Fire Resiliency Program



## South Skyline FireSafe Council

324 Skyline Blvd, La Honda, CA 94020

[www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org)

The Skyline Boulevard region in the Counties of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and San Mateo

Janet Wohlgemuth  
California Conservation Corps  
Monterey Bay Center  
30 Aviation Way  
Watsonville, CA 95076

June 8, 2020

### **RE: Support for Prop 68 Coal Creek Residential Area Fuel Break Project**

Dear Ms. Wohlgemuth:

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Thank you for your consideration of providing funding for this regionally important project.

Sincerely Yours,

Ken MacLean - President  
South Skyline FireSafe Council