



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

R-20-103
Meeting 20-22
September 23, 2020

AGENDA ITEM 3

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract for Project Management of Fire Resiliency and Fuel Reduction Work and Associated Biological Monitoring Services at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Overstory Land Stewardship for the base contract price of \$62,627 to manage a project that will create and improve fuel breaks along existing open space roads and trails at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency of \$6,263 to be expended only if additional work is required beyond the base contract scope of work, for a not-to-exceed total contract of \$68,890.

SUMMARY

The Coal Creek Fuel Break Project (Project) was unexpectedly added to the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget and Action Plan in July given the fortuitous opportunity to leverage \$232,358 in Prop 68 grant funding to expand fuel management work at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve). As a late addition to the Action Plan, outside project management assistance is needed to complete the Project by the grant deadline of May 31, 2021 given that internal supervisors and leads are fully resource loaded with other projects and priorities. As described in the grant application, the Project will be completed by California Conservation Corps (CCC) crews, one or more contractors (to be bid and awarded separately), and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) Land and Facilities Department staff. The Project will involve fuel reduction vegetation clearing along 2.4 miles of roads and trails that serve as emergency response and/or evacuation routes and also function as important fire lines in the event of a wildland fire. The total treatment area is approximately 47 acres. The FY21 amended budget includes sufficient funds for the recommended contract.

DISCUSSION

Background

The project area follows important emergency access and/or evacuation routes at Coal Creek Open Space Preserve (Preserve) (see Attachment 1 – Project Location Map). Vegetation management along the Project's 2.4 miles of roads and trails is intended to slow the spread of a wildland fire, aid in the suppression and control of a wildland fire, and/or reduce the impacts of wildland fire should one occur. Unnaturally excessive fuel loads are the primary factor that can be modified to alter the behavior of a wildland fire at the Preserve. The District works cooperatively with neighbors, fire agencies, and regional fire safe councils on fire prevention and

preparedness efforts. This Project site is identified as a High Priority Area in the “San Mateo-Santa Cruz Counties Community Wildfire Prevention Plan”. This Project site is also specifically identified by Division Chief-Forester II Rich Sampson with the San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit of CalFire as a high priority.

The Project will create a new fuel break (90% shaded fuel break and 10% non-shaded fuel break) within the Preserve. Vegetation will be reduced along the existing road and trail network that abuts adjacent private lands and the Cloud’s Rest neighborhood. Typically, tree limbs will be removed up to 10 feet above ground, dense small trees and brush will be thinned, dead trees may be removed, and some heavy brush patches will be masticated. This will create an approximately 100-foot wide strip centered on the road or trail to reduce the intensity of potential wildland fires to a level that firefighters can safely access the area and to allow the road and trail to act as a fire line. The project will protect the preserve and surrounding area from fires generated on private lands as well as protecting the Cloud’s Rest neighborhood. Terrain and property boundaries will vary the exact extent of the work. An outside project manager is required to ensure that the Project is completed in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with the District’s Integrated Pest Management Program (IPMP).

Much of the hand removal of vegetation using smaller equipment, including chainsaws and pole saws, will be done by CCC crews. District Land and Facilities staff or contractors will complete work using heavy equipment such as an excavator/skid-steer mounted masticator, trailer/track chipper, bucket truck, and wheel tractors with mowers. Small vegetation will be chipped or masticated on site. Some larger woody debris may be left lying on the ground away from roads and trails to provide habitat features for animals such as reptiles. Per the District’s ecologically sensitive vegetation management practices, invasive and/or non-native species treatment is prioritized during fuel reduction removal activities. A short segment of t-posts and broken wire will be also be removed to access the work area and reduce potential wildlife injury.

Pending Board approval, Overstory Land Stewardship (OLS) will assist District staff in preparing bid documents and selecting the contractor(s). OLS will manage and coordinate work to be completed by the CCC, contractors, and Land and Facilities field staff. Participation in the Project will provide CCC crew members with a worthwhile and meaningful work experience as well as educational and enrichment opportunities, such as training on native plants, wildland fire behavior, climate change, and soil management and stabilization. Prop 68 grant funds (\$232,358) will support the CCC crew for the project. District staff time, contractor costs, and CCC crew provisions will constitute the District’s required matching costs (\$306,000) for the grant.

Contractor Selection

A Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFPQ) was posted on the District’s website and BidSync on August 7. The initial deadline for submissions was August 28 by which date two submissions were received. The deadline was extended to September 4 to allow additional consultants to submit a proposal. Staff conducted additional outreach during the extended submission period. No additional proposals were received.

District staff ranked proposals based on the quality of the proposal, including the consistency with the objectives, ability to demonstrate an understanding of the Project, fulfilling proposal requirements, and overall presentation. The proposal fees for the base contract were \$62,627 and \$119,911, respectively.

After a careful review of all the proposals, District staff determined OLS to be the most qualified and cost-effective consultant to manage the Project at a base contract fee of \$62,627. In addition, the General Manager recommends a 10% contingency of \$6,263 to be expended only if additional work beyond the contract scope of work is required to complete the Project, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$68,890.

FISCAL IMPACT

Total project costs are estimated at \$538,358, to be partially funded by a \$232,358 Prop 68 grant (R-20-94) and \$306,000 in matching District funds. Grant funded work must be completed by May 31, 2021. Work associated with District funds will be completed by June 30, 2021.

The FY21 amended budget includes \$538,358 for the (61022) Coal Creek Fuel Break project. There are sufficient funds in the budget to cover the recommended action and expenditures.

61022 - Coal Creek Fuel Break	FY21 Amended
District Funded (Fund 10):	\$306,000
Grant Amount:	\$232,358
Total Budget:	\$538,358
Spent-to-Date (as of 09/03/20):	\$0
Encumbrances:	\$0
Overstory Land Stewardship Contract:	(\$62,627)
Overstory Land Stewardship Contract Contingency:	(\$6,263)
Budget Remaining (Proposed):	\$469,468

This recommended action is not funded by Measure AA.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

This item was not previously reviewed by a Board committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act. Notice of the Project itself was previously provided to residents of the adjacent Cloud's Rest neighborhood.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The award of contract for professional services 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 the Coal Creek Fuel Reduction project. The mitigation measures and BMPs identified in the EIR are incorporated into the project.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the General Manager will execute an agreement with OLS to manage the Coal Creek Fuel Reduction Project. OLS will begin to work with the District to bid and award separate contractor work associated with implementation of the Project, which will be brought to the Board for approval if any individual contract exceeds \$50,000.

Attachment

1. Project Location Map

Responsible Department Head:

Julie Andersen, Interim Land and Facilities Manager

Prepared by:

Gordon Baillie, Interim Management Analyst II

Craig Beckman, Skyline Area Manager

Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist

Staff contacts:

Gordon Baillie, Interim Management Analyst II

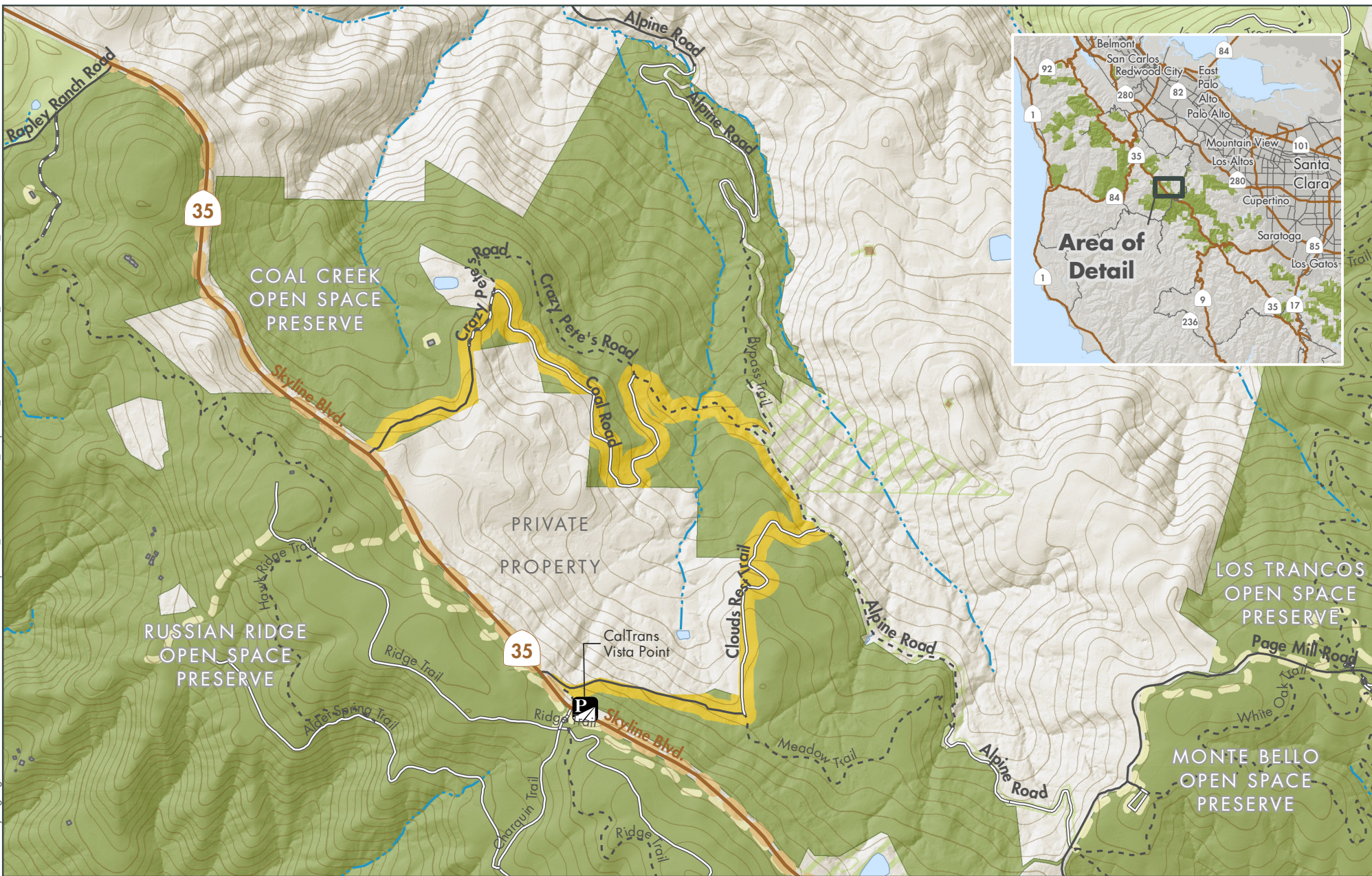
Craig Beckman, Skyline Area Manager

Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist

Graphics by:

Nathan Greig, Data Analyst II

Path: G:\Projects\A_Districtwide\Fire_Maps\CC_FuelReduction\CC_FuelReduction_20200908.mxd
Created By: ngreig



Coal Creek Fire Resiliency and Fuel Reduction Project

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Project location | Paved road | Building |
| Midpen preserves | Unpaved all-season road | Shaded fuel break |
| Other protected lands | Unpaved seasonal road | Disc line |
| | Trail | |

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(Midpen)
9/4/2020



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.