



PROCUREMENT AGENDA ITEM

R-25-06
Meeting 25-01
January 8, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 7

AGENDA ITEM

Award of Contract for Environmental Consulting Services for the Purisima Pond Improvement Project

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Award a contract to Balance Hydrologics, Inc., to provide environmental consulting services, including geotechnical investigation, hydrological analysis, permitting, and pond design services, to support repairs and modifications to Purisima Pond for a not-to-exceed base contract amount of \$164,498.
2. Authorize a 10% contingency in the amount of \$16,450 to be reserved for unanticipated issues, bringing the total contract amount to \$180,948.
3. Authorize an allowance of \$69,593 for stand-alone permitting services in the event that programmatic permits are not applicable, or available within the project timeline, to cover the scope of the final selected design for construction, for a total not-to-exceed contract amount of \$250,541.

DISCUSSION

The berm of Purisima Pond, a stock pond, located within the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (District) Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (PCR), (Attachment 1) was damaged due to erosion from overtopping during the winter of 2022/2023 and a full rebuild will likely be necessary (Project). The pond supports a population of federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*, CRLF). In addition, the pond supports conservation grazing by providing a water source for cattle on the Lobitos Ridge and Elkus Ranch Uplands (Lobitos) conservation grazing unit in PCR.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) financial assistance has been requested to fund all or a portion of the Project. The Project must be completed (including the construction phase) by January 14, 2027 to be eligible for FEMA funding. The proposed schedule will complete construction in September of 2026.

On November 10, 2010 the Board approved an amendment ([R-10-99](#)) to the Preliminary Use and Management Plan for the Lobitos Ridge and Elkus Ranch Uplands additions to PCR to incorporate a Rangeland Management Plan (RMP). The goal of the RMP is to support both conservation grazing and biotic resources and includes management recommendations for the restoration and maintenance of stockwater ponds within the Lobitos grazing unit. Environmental consulting services are necessary to supply geotechnical and hydrological data, design preparation and permitting assistance during Phase I, and geotechnical construction

oversight during Phase II, to restore Purisima Pond. Phase I will focus on geotechnical surveys, hydrological and hydraulic analysis, design, and permitting support. The design will detail an approach to stabilize or reconstruct the pond berm, provide a ponding depth and basin morphology that supports CRLF and stockwater demand, as well as providing adequate spillway discharge capacity to convey peak flows under a 100-year storm event.

FISCAL IMPACT

The current fiscal year budget contains:

- sufficient funds.
- insufficient funds; the next quarterly budget update will include a reallocation of unspent funds from other project budgets to cover for this expenditure.
- insufficient funds; approval of this item requires a fiscal year budget augmentation.
- future fiscal year budgets will include additional funds to complete the contracted work.

Measure AA

- No, this contract is not part of a Measure AA project.
- Yes, this contract is part of a Measure AA project.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND SELECTION

On October 1, 2024, staff issued a Request for Proposals and Qualifications (RFPQ) via Periscope and performed outreach to qualified firms. A mandatory pre-proposal site visit was held on October 24, 2024, and was attended by representatives from four firms. The District received 3 proposals by the November 15, 2024 deadline. Balance Hydrologics submitted the top-rated proposal and was selected as the most qualified consultant due to their subject matter expertise with pond restoration design services in support of species recovery and conservation grazing. The firm proposed a strategic and streamlined workplan at a fair and reasonable price.

Consultant	Location	Proposed Base Fee
Balance Hydrologics	Santa Cruz, CA	\$164,498.00
Sherwood	Santa Cruz, CA	\$276,347.00
Dudek	Santa Cruz, CA	\$226,559.00

PRIOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE REVIEW

On November 10, 2010 the Board approved an amendment ([R-10-99](#), [Minutes](#)) to the Preliminary Use and Management Plan for Lobitos Ridge and Elkus Ranch Uplands to incorporate a Rangeland Management Plan that includes pond restoration recommendations.

On December 11, 2024 ([R-24-156](#)) the Board adopted the South Cowell Addendum for the Rangeland Management plan for to the Elkus-Lobitos Grazing Unit in Purisima Creek Redwoods to add the South Cowell upland property lease and management into the contiguous Elkus-Lobitos Grazing Unit. Approval of draft minutes for the December 11, 2024 meeting are part of the January 8, 2025 Board meeting agenda and included in the agenda packet for the meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section 15162 the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the District has determined that the proposed environmental consultant services, including ground disturbing activities associated with geotechnical borings, are consistent with the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Open Space Maintenance and Restoration Program (Program) (SCH #2021080129), adopted by the Board on September 22, 2021 ([Resolution No. 21-32](#)).

NEXT STEPS

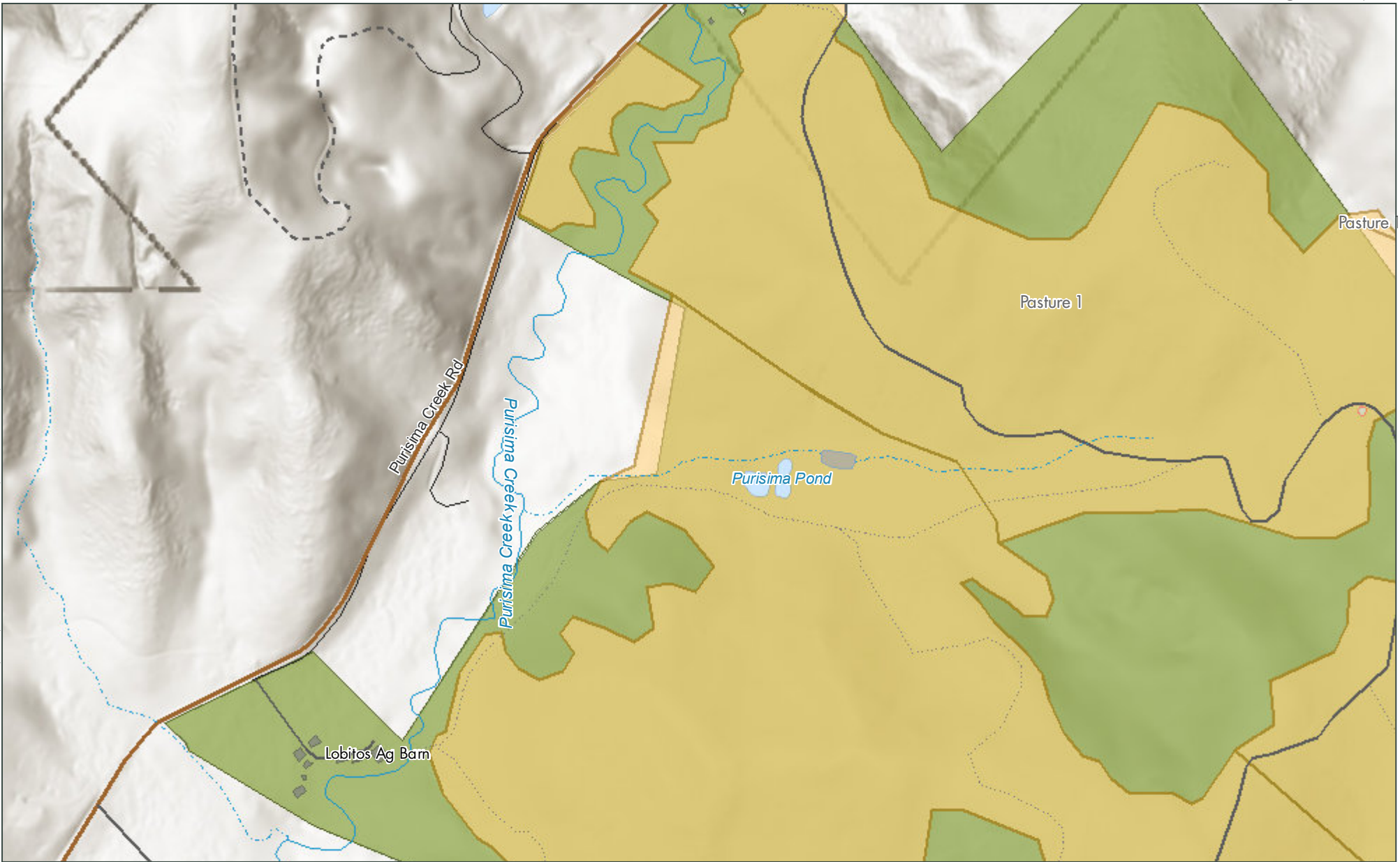
Following Board approval, the General Manager will execute an agreement with Balance Hydrologics Inc., for environmental consulting services resulting in pond restoration design and permitting support completed in December of 2025. Phase II construction is expected to occur in September of 2026 and would include geotechnical testing and inspections during construction. The construction contract will be awarded under a separate RFP.

Attachment(s)

1. Purisima Pond Map

Responsible Department Head:
Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Department Manager

Prepared by / Contact person:
Matt Sharp Chaney, Resource Management Specialist II, Natural Resources



A1 Purisima Pond Location Map

Building

■ Present

Trail (classes)

— Paved Road

— Unpaved Seasonal Road

--- Trail

..... Abandoned / Unmaintained Road

Road Centerline (minor)

— Road

Pasture

■ Active

■ Preserve Boundary (fill)

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)
12/11/2024



Data Source(s): Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CCGAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NIS, OS, NMA, GeoDataStyle.com, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community