



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Reject All Bids for Roads and Trails On-Call Maintenance, Contract No. 2057  
**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** January 06, 2026

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**        X        Action                      Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a resolution rejecting all bids for the Roads and Trails On-Call Maintenance Project, Contract No. 2057, and finding bid protest moot

**SUMMARY:** The Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) outlines the best management practices and environmental protection measures for maintaining watershed roads and trails. Since the RTMP's adoption, the District has been implementing its management practices and measures on the watershed. The District awarded an On-Call Roads and Trails Maintenance Contract on May 17, 2022, which expired on June 30, 2025. After the contract expired, the District advertised a new On-Call Roads and Trails Maintenance Contract (CN-2057) and opened bids in October 2025. The District received nine (9) bids. Upon review, staff determined that three (3) were non-responsive, including the lowest bid. After reviewing the bids and considering that three bids were found to be non-responsive, staff recommends rejecting all bids and reissuing the invitation for bids for this on-call work.

**DISCUSSION:** In April 2005, the District adopted the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP), which outlines best management practices and environmental protection measures for maintaining watershed roads and trails. As part of this plan, the District proactively maintains service roads to support emergency access and water infrastructure servicing, and repairs trails to ensure safe public access and prevent environmental degradation.

To implement these activities, the District utilizes a combination of staff, volunteers and contractors. Currently, the District is focused on several key efforts, including repairing approximately 70 watershed culverts, constructing the Azalea Hill Trail Project Parking Lot, and performing routine annual road and trail maintenance to protect water quality and maintain access to critical water distribution facilities. These projects often require the use of heavy equipment and specialized skills that exceed the capacity of other contractors such as the California Conservation Corps and California Conservation Corps North Bay, who have historically supported lighter maintenance tasks.

Over the years, the District has successfully partnered with similar contractors for a range of projects, including construction of retaining walls along Liberty Gulch, culvert installations, pipeline replacements, roadside brushing, bridge construction and parking lot repairs.

To support these ongoing needs, the District advertised Contract No. 1981 for on-call watershed roads and trails maintenance work on April 9, 2022, and awarded the contract to Piazza Construction on May 17, 2022. Contract No. 1981 expired on June 30, 2025.

The District advertised a notice inviting bidders on October 13, 2025, for a new on-call roads and trails maintenance contract to ensure the continuation of critical watershed RTMP maintenance. The work outlined in this new contract will support proactive road and trail management and enhance the District's ability to respond to seasonal impacts and urgent repair needs. This contract will be used to maintain fire road infrastructure to ensure access to critical water distribution facilities and address erosion issues along roads and trails to protect water quality.

In October 2025, the District released a notice inviting bids for a three (3) year On-call Roads and Trails Maintenance contract. The notice was published in the local newspaper and posted on the District's external bid posting website to inform contractors of the opportunity. The bid opening occurred on October 30, 2025, and nine sealed bids were received. The lowest bid was non-responsive because it did not include a signed addendum and did not meet the required bidder instructions. The second-lowest bid was deemed non-responsive due to a mathematical error that overstated the bid amount.

During the bid review process, the District received a bid protest from Piazza Construction regarding the District's determination that its bid was non-responsive. Staff identified a mathematical error in Piazza Construction's total bid amount that constitutes a material defect under public contracting requirements. Because this error rendered the bid eligible for withdrawal without forfeiture of the bid bond, it created a potential competitive advantage not available to other bidders. Accordingly, staff determined that the bid could not be considered responsive.

After further reviewing the bids and the protest and considering that three bids were found to be non-responsive, including the apparent first and second lowest bids, staff recommends rejecting all bids and reissuing the invitation for bids for this on-call work.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** The District as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for roads and trails maintenance, which was adopted in 2005 and covers all work being proposed under this contract.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact at this time, as staff recommends that all bids be rejected and the project be re-advertised. A detailed fiscal analysis will be provided in a future staff report when the contract award is brought to the Board for consideration.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Proposed Resolution Rejecting All Bids for Contract No. 2057

| DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION | DIVISION MANAGER | APPROVED |
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Watershed



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