



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors

Title: Request for Proposals for Road and Trail Management Plan Update Special-Status Plant Surveys and Trail Assessments (Amended Staff Report)

From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources 

Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager 

Meeting Date: September 17, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the Request for Proposals for Road and Trail Management Plan Update (RTMP Update) Special-Status Plant Surveys and Trail Assessments

SUMMARY: Staff is requesting that the Watershed Committee review and comment on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for two technical components supporting the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) Update: (1) protocol-level special-status plant surveys and (2) road and trail assessments. The work will evaluate areas associated with the preferred planning scenario and provide site-specific information to support environmental review, continued planning and design, and future implementation.

Consultants may submit proposals for either component individually or for both components. The District will evaluate proposals based on consultant qualifications, experience, approach, and cost. Following completion of the solicitation and evaluation process, staff will return to the Board of Directors at a future regularly scheduled meeting with a recommendation for contract award.

DISCUSSION: The District's Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP), adopted in 2005, provides a framework for the management of roads and trails on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed. The RTMP guides the District's approach to protecting water quality and natural resources while providing appropriate public access and supporting watershed management and operational needs. The District is currently undertaking an update to the RTMP to reflect current watershed conditions, management priorities, recreational use, and restoration opportunities. The RTMP Update includes potential changes roads and trails to improve resource protection, visitor access and experience, and long-term management of the watershed. Following an extensive public engagement and planning process, the Board identified a preferred planning scenario in June 2026 that includes proposed restoration, road and trail improvements, reroutes, and accessibility modifications.

As the District advances the preferred planning scenario, additional site-specific information is needed to support environmental review and inform continued planning and design of proposed road and trail changes. The RFP includes two components that may be awarded separately or together.

Component 1 – Protocol-Level Special-Status Plant Surveys: Protocol-level botanical surveys will provide current, site-specific information regarding the presence and distribution of special-status plants within areas associated with approximately 50 miles of proposed road and trail restoration, reroutes, conversions, and access modifications. Because special-status plant species have varying blooming periods and may only be reliably identified during certain times of year, surveys will be conducted during appropriate survey windows over multiple survey seasons. The selected consultant will review existing natural resource information, conduct protocol-level floristic surveys, document and map special-status plant occurrences, and prepare survey results to support environmental review of the RTMP Update.

Component 2 – Road and Trail Assessments: Road and trail assessments will provide site-specific information on existing conditions and proposed changes within the preferred planning scenario. The assessments will document relevant road and trail characteristics and field conditions to inform continued planning and design, environmental review, prioritization, and future implementation of proposed restoration and road and trail improvements.

Consultants may propose on one or both components based on their qualifications and expertise. Following completion of the solicitation and evaluation of proposals, staff will return to the Board of Directors at a future regularly scheduled meeting with a recommendation for contract award.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds for the proposed contract(s) are included in the District's budget for the Road and Trail Management Plan Update.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.