



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Forestry and Prescribed Fire Support General Services Agreements (GSA), FY26-28
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: June 12, 2025

SH *BH*

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the proposed 'BFFIP Maintenance' GSA contract (CN-2050) and the proposed 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contract (CN-2051) for award of the contracts to the lowest qualified bidders at a future regular meeting of the Board of Directors

SUMMARY: The District is currently in year six of implementation of the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) that was adopted in 2019. The current BFFIP maintenance contract with Forster and Kroeger will expire on June 30, 2025. Staff propose using a new three year 'BFFIP Maintenance' General Services Agreement (GSA) contract to provide labor and equipment necessary to further maintain treatments outlined in the 2019 BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. In addition, the current BFFIP forestry contract with Bay Area Tree Specialists will also expire on June 30, 2025. Staff again propose using a new three year 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contract to provide labor and equipment necessary to implement treatments outlined in the 2019 BFFIP vegetation Management Actions, including pile burn support.

Staff is requesting that the Watershed Committee review and comment on both the 'BFFIP Maintenance' and 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contracts, which will be brought to a future regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting for award of the proposed contracts to the lowest qualified bidders, and to authorize the General Manager to execute any and all future amendments to these contracts, which is deemed necessary, so long as they do not exceed 10% in total of the contract amount.

DISCUSSION: In October of 2019, the District adopted the BFFIP, and associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function. Vegetation management under the BFFIP aims to reduce fuel loads, maintain fuelbreak infrastructure, preserve defensible space, and

reduce invasive weed species. Vegetation management is conducted continuously throughout the year with the chief goal of reducing fuel loads and maintaining the watershed's biological diversity.

Over the last four years, Forester and Kroeger has successfully assisted the District under contract CN-1948 with implementation and maintenance of BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. On June 30, 2025 CN-1948 will expire and the District is now seeking bids for a new 'BFFIP Maintenance' contract in order to continue critical BFFIP implementation. Similarly, over the last four years Bay Area Tree Services have successfully assisted the District under contract CN-1967 with implementation and maintenance of BFFIP vegetation Management Actions. On June 30, 2025 CN-1967 will expire and the District is now seeking bids for a new 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' contract in order to continue critical BFFIP implementation, as well as support ongoing pile burn efforts.

For the past five years, Watershed Staff and contractors have successfully implemented vegetation Management Actions (MAs) outlined within the BFFIP. Implementation of Management Actions requires multiple contractors with a range of technical skills to conduct over 1,500 acres of annual vegetation treatments described in the BFFIP under MA-20, 'Fuelbreak Construction', MA-21 'Fuelbreak Construction', MA-23, 'Forest Stand Structure Improvement' and MA 24, 'Grassland and Oak Woodland Improvement'. These two new contracts, 'BFFIP Maintenance' and 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support', will provide skilled hand labor, necessary to continue planned maintenance and implementation of BFFIP Management Actions.

PROPOSAL SELCTION PROCESS:

The District will release a notice inviting bids for both a new three-year 'BFFIP Maintenance' and a new 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support' GSA contracts. The notice will be published in the local newspaper and posted on the District's external bid posting website to inform contractors of the opportunity. Sealed bids will be received and reviewed by the District and the lowest qualified bidder will be selected and the GSA will be brought to a future Board of Directors meeting for approval of award.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The District, as the Lead Agency, has prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) which was adopted in 2019. The proposed contracts and the work anticipated thereunder all fall within the scope of the BFFIP and PEIR.

FISCAL IMPACT: Over the initial three year period, during FY26, FY27 & FY28, Staff estimate the costs to perform the 'BFFIP Maintenance' contract will be \$5,818,254 and the cost to perform the 'BFFIP Forestry Services and Pile Burn Support' contract will be \$3,666,673. Funds for these contracts will be paid out of a combination of District BFFIP Operations and Capital funding, as well as with a secured Wildlife Conservation Board Grant and Cal Fire Forest Health Grants.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.