



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Board of Directors
Title: FY2025 - FY2027 Forestry Services General Services Agreement (CN 2034)
From: Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: October 1, 2024

TYPE OF ACTION: X Action Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of 'Forestry Services' General Services Agreement (CN 2034) in the amount of \$2,902,344 to the qualified low bidder Forster and Kroeger for continued implementation of the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) and support of the Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Project

SUMMARY: Staff is requesting that the Board of Directors approve and authorize the General Manager to sign a General Services Agreement (CN 2034) in the amount of \$2,902,344 with Forester and Kroeger to provide three years of forestry work to support implementation of the BFFIP, as well support the current Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Project.

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.

The District is currently in year six of implementation of the BFFIP that was adopted in 2019

Staff is requesting that the Board of Directors approve and authorize the General Manager to sign a 'Forestry Services' GSA contract (CN 2034), and to authorize the General Manager to execute any and all future amendments to this contract, which is deemed necessary, so long as they do not exceed 10% in total of the contract amount. Assuming satisfactory contractor performance during the initial three-year term, the GSA contract allows the District the option to execute two subsequent one-year contract extensions.

For the past five years, Watershed Staff and contractors have successfully implemented vegetation Management Actions (MAs) outlined within the BFFIP. Implementation of MAs 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'. This new Forestry GSA will provide skilled hand and operator labor, as well as heavy equipment masticators necessary to continue planned BFFIP MAs.


In addition, this new Forestry GSA will also support maintenance of the Lagunitas Creek Watershed Enhancement Project that is currently being constructed.

PROPOSAL SELCTION PROCESS: On August 23, 2024, the District released a notice inviting bids for a three-year 'Forestry Services' GSA 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. Sealed bids were received on September 5, 2024 and reviewed by the District. Forster and Kroeger was selected as the lowest qualified bidder, with a bid amount of \$2,902,344.

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 and covers all work reviewed in this Annual Report.

FISCAL IMPACT: Staff estimate the costs to perform the Forestry Services over the initial three years, during FY25, FY26 & FY27, will be \$2,902,344. Funds for this contract 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.

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed		
	Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director	Ben Horenstein General Manager