

Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function on the District’s watershed. Vegetation management under the BFFIP aims to reduce fuel loads, improve forest health, preserve defensible space, and reduce invasive weed species. Ahead of new vegetation management projects the District conducts per-project environmental compliance surveys to ensure that vegetation management activities do not impact sensitive natural resources. This Professional Services Agreement will support annual monitoring of historical nesting sites in the vicinity of planned vegetation management areas and other District construction projects on the watershed, which is crucial for avoiding impacts to Northern Spotted Owls during project implementation.



The District continues to scale up vegetation management work and forest restoration on the watershed to address fuel load issues and to treat non-native invasive plants. Through the use of environmental compliance measures, the District can schedule and coordinate vegetation management work to avoid sensitive biological and physical resources. Furthermore, ongoing monitoring of the occupancy and reproductive status of Northern Spotted Owls helps to track the health of this species in Marin County, and to detect any early warning signs of declines. In recent years Point Blue has detected Barred Owls in Marin County which can threaten the local NSO population through competition for space and food, as has been well-documented in other parts of its range (Wiens et al. 2014, Dugger et al. 2016, Franklin et al. 2021). The District and Point Blue through this contract will continue to evaluate how Barred Owls influence the NSO population in Marin County to help inform watershed stewardship.

PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS: On September 18, 2022, the District released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a two-year Northern Spotted Owl monitoring contract. The RFP was sent to three local environmental consulting firms with experience in biological monitoring. Proposals were received by the District on October 2, 2022, and Point Blue Conservation Science (PBCS) was selected as the most qualified firm. Staff proposes continuing these services with PBCS for another two-year term.

FISCAL IMPACT: The funds for environmental compliance for BFFIP implementation are budgeted in part within Watershed Fund Center 2044 which will be used to cover the \$199,223 NSO contract costs.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Point Blue Conservation Science Northern Spotted Owl Professional Services Agreement MA 6390 for 2025 and 2026

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Watershed		
	<p align="center">Shaun Horne Watershed Resources Director</p>	<p align="center">Ben Horenstein General Manager</p>