



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Watershed Committee/Special Meeting Board of Directors
Title: Request for Proposals for Road and Trail Management Plan Update Special-Status Plant Surveys
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

SUMMARY: Staff is requesting that the Watershed Committee review and comment on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for protocol-level special-status plant surveys to support the Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) Update. The surveys will evaluate areas associated with approximately 50 miles of proposed road and trail restoration, reroutes, conversions, and access modifications included in the RTMP Update preferred planning scenario. The surveys will also provide information necessary to support environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and future implementation work.

The District released the RFP in August 2026 and will evaluate proposals based on consultant qualifications, experience, approach, and cost. District 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 natural resource information will help guide continued planning and design of proposed road and trail changes. Protocol-level botanical surveys will provide current, site-specific information regarding the presence and distribution of special-status plants within areas associated with the proposed road and trail changes. 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 species-specific survey windows over multiple survey seasons.

The District has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified botanical consultant to conduct protocol-level special-status plant surveys along approximately 50 miles of roads and trails included in the preferred planning scenario. The selected consultant will review existing natural resource information, conduct appropriately timed field surveys, document and map special-status plant occurrences, and prepare survey results to support the RTMP Update environmental review.

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 are included in the District's budget for the Road and Trail Management Plan Update.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.