

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: June 7, 2023
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Shuran Parker, Acting General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Contract Amendment with Denise Duffy & Associates LLC for Seed Collection and Plant Propagation Services

SUMMARY:

Staff are requesting that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to amend MPRPD’s agreement with Denise Duffy and Associates LLC to assist with coordination and implementation of seed collection, nursery collection, and plant propagation services for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Original Contract: \$29,524
Amendment 1: \$10,476
Requested Amendment 2: \$238,208
Total amount: \$278,208

FUNDING SOURCE:

6794 CFD Professional/Contract Services

FUNDING BALANCE:

Funding has been included in the proposed FY2023-24 budget.

DISCUSSION:

The Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project (Project) seeks to restore a 1-mile section of the Carmel River and its surrounding floodplain on the 185-acre Rancho Cañada Unit of Palo Corona Regional Park (Property). The Project is a collaborative effort between The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), State Coastal Conservancy, and multiple private and public supporting partners and technical advisors. On June 1, 2023 the Project received \$711,000 in additional funding from the Coastal Conservancy to complete permitting and design phases later this year, and the Project team is in advanced discussions with potential project funders and believes that the Project remains on track to begin construction in summer 2024. The Project includes extensive grading and recontouring of the Property and will require large-scale reintroduction and establishment of native plants across the project site, including a native plant palette of over 30 plant species that are native to the Carmel River Watershed. The Project seeks to secure plant stock that is sourced from locations within the Carmel River Watershed to support recovery and expansion of locally adapted plant genotypes increasing native plants’ resilience to local climatic conditions. Securing this plant stock in time for the Project to begin next summer requires collection and propagation efforts to begin immediately so that there is sufficient time to amplify seeds and

grow sufficiently diverse and developed plant stock. MPRPD has agreed to provide bridge funding to support the Project's near term plant propagation priorities while the Project secures approximately \$25M in grant funding later this year and early next year.

MPRPD secured the services of Denise Duffy and Associates (DDA) in April 2023 to oversee and coordinate priority plant propagation activities for the Project. DDA staff have firsthand experience overseeing plant propagation efforts for other large-scale restoration projects in the area, including the San Clemente Dam Removal project, CRFEE Project, and Carr Lake Restoration project. DDA has since worked closely with the Project team to refine the plant list, secured collection permits from multiple surrounding property owners, and conducted outreach to qualified seed collection and propagation contractors to solicit bids on behalf of MPRPD. DDA released two requests for bids, one for seed collection services and one for nursery collection and contract growing services. DDA received a total of five bids from three qualified firms, including Burleson Consulting LLC, Ecological Concerns Inc, and RANA the Cohabitat Co. MPRPD staff and the Project team reviewed the bids with DDA and found Ecological Concerns Inc (ECI) and Rana The Cohabitat Co. (Rana) to have provided the lowest responsive bids for nursery collection and contract growing services and seed collection services, respectively. Given that seed collection windows are closing quickly, staff amended DDA's contract on May 31st to provide an additional \$10,476 to enable DDA to subcontract to Rana to begin seed collection activities immediately. As of writing this report, DDA expects to begin seed collection activities with Rana on June 2, 2023.

Staff are requesting that the board authorize an additional amount of \$238,208 be allocated to DDA's contract, allowing them to subcontract to ECI and Rana (**ATTACHMENT 1**), including an additional \$45,129 for seed collection services from Rana and up to \$193,079 for nursery collection and contract growing services from ECI for a total contract amount of \$278,208. Given that some of these costs will be incurred on a time and materials basis and other costs will not be incurred until delivery of plant and seed stock, staff estimate that approximately \$100,000 of the contract amount will be covered by future Project grants when the plant are delivered in the 24/25 Fiscal year. However, an additional \$100,000 to \$170,000 will be required later this summer to support additional contract seed amplification work, which will depend on the outcome of near-term seed collection efforts. It is also important to note that if the Project is delayed, a monthly holding fee of \$13,409 will be charged by the ECI to care for plants until they are able to be delivered but staff expect that any monthly holding fees will be covered by future Project grants.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to execute the amended agreement with DDA Consulting LLC (**ATTACHMENT 2**), substantially as to form, to support coordination and implementation of seed collection and plant propagation services for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [DDA Proposal](#)
2. [DDA Contract Amendment 2](#)