MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE:	**August 2, 2023**
TO:	**Board of Directors**
FROM:	**Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager**
REVIEWED BY:	**Lew Bauman, Interim General Manager**
SUBJECT:	**Approval of Contract Amendment with Denise Duffy & Associates LLC for Native Seed Amplification Services**

SUMMARY:
Staff are requesting that the Board authorize and direct the Interim General Manager to execute a third amendment to MPRPD's agreement with Denise Duffy and Associates LLC (DDA) for native seed amplification services for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project.

FISCAL IMPACT:
Original Contract: $29,524
Amendment 1: $10,476
Amendment 2: $238,208
Requested Amendment 3: 187,321.50
Total amount: $465,529.50

MPRPD has paid DDA $107,031.59 for services over the 22/23 fiscal year and estimates approximately $140,000 in expenses during the 23/24 fiscal year. Outside grants, once secured, are expected to potentially cover some expenses in the 23/24 FY and all expenses in future fiscal years.

FUNDING SOURCE:
6710 Palo Corona Maintenance/Services

FUNDING BALANCE:
$252,000

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 (Phase 1) and continue through fiscal year 25/26 (Phase 2). 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. In addition, the Board authorized staff to amend DDA's contract in June 2023 to subcontract to RANA the Cohabitat Co (RANA) for seed collection services and Ecological Concerns Inc (ECI) for nursery collection and contract nursery growing services, recognizing that collected seed would need to be amplified. RANA and ECI have both begun seed and nursery collection activities under the oversight of DDA and MPRPD (Figure 1).

Figure 1. (Photo Left) Native seed collection site at the Santa Lucia Preserve. (Photo right) Collected meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) seed.

Seed stock will now need to be sent to seed amplifiers to plant fields with seed stock to grow these plant species and harvest their respective seeds to ensure that a sufficient poundage of seed is provided for the Project (Table 1).

Table 1. Native species subject of the recommended contract agreement and seed poundage targets for amplification.

Botanical name	Common Name	Quantity Phase 1 (lbs)	Quantity Phase 2 (lbs)
Elymus glaucus	Blue wildrye	402	262
Stipa pulchra	Purple needlegrass	360	282
Bromus carinatus	California brome	570	382
Hordeum brachyantherum	Meadow barley	173	88

Staff are requesting that the board authorize an additional amount of $187,321.50 be allocated to DDA's contract to subcontract to seed amplification contractors BFI Native Seeds (BFI) and Heritage Growers (Heritage) (**ATTACHMENT 1**) to provide locally sourced native seed for both phases of the Project. This amount is expected to be paid over three fiscal years according to the estimated fee payment schedule (Table 2).

Table 2. Estimated fee payment schedule for amplification of native species included in Table1.

Fiscal year	Estimated Amount	Description
FY23/24	$64,240.00	Deposit/production plot fees, seed cleaning, testing
FY24/25	$64,043.80	Phase 1 seed, delivery
FY25/26	$59,037.70	Phase 2 seed, delivery

Staff anticipate that grant funding for the Project, once secured, will cover all plant propagation and seed amplification costs beyond the current fiscal year. If grant funding is not secured or if the Project does not move forward, MPRPD would need to pay Phase 1 seed delivery in FY 24/25 but could cancel Phase 2 seed amplification and delivery work to avoid incurring estimated fees in FY 25/26 if the Project does not move forward.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Given the urgent need to begin seed amplification to ensure that a sufficient seed supply is available for the Project to begin summer 2024, that grant funding is expected to cover project expenses starting in FY24/25, and the ability to cancel Phase 2 services - staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize and direct the Interim General Manager to execute the amended agreement with DDA Consulting LLC (**ATTACHMENT 2**), substantially as to form, to support native seed amplification services for Phases 1 and 2 of the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project

ATTACHMENTS:
1. DDA Proposal
2. DDA Contract Amendment 3