

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: October 02, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Rafael Payan, General Manager
SUBJECT: Authorization to Reject All Bids for RFB 202324-1 Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Project

SUMMARY:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize the rejection of all bids for RFB 202324-1 Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Project. The Project involves the removal, thinning, and treatment of invasive blue gum eucalyptus trees within a 12.2-acre area of Garland Ranch Regional Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None. Staff have confirmed that all grant funding secured from the State Coastal Conservancy’s Wildfire Resilience Grant Program will remain available for Project implementation and additional Project grant funding is being considered by Conservancy staff.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

FUNDING BALANCE:

Not applicable.

DISCUSSION:

On June 7, 2024, staff issued a Request for Bid (RFB) via OpenGov Procurement Software (OpenGov), and notified firms directly through OpenGov. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on June 28, 2024, attended by representatives from 3 firms. The following 2 firms submitted bids by the July 17, 2024 deadline.

Contractor	Location	Proposed Base Bid
Bay Area Tree Service	San Jose, Ca	\$587,012.00*
Huertas Tree Service & Development Inc.	Los Gatos, Ca	\$562,248.15

*Bay Area Tree Service clarified after submitting their bid form that their base bid was \$587,012.00, not \$687,012.00 as shown in ATTACHMENT 2.

Proposals were evaluated according to the RFB criteria. Huertas Tree Service & Development Inc. was deemed non-responsive for failing to submit a bid bond by the required deadline

Bay Area Tree Service's (BATS) base bid of \$587,012.00, exceeds the \$385,000 that was requested from the State Coastal Conservancy's (Conservancy) Wildfire Resilience Grant Program in early 2022 for Project work. Furthermore, the base bid does not include disposal of felled eucalyptus logs, which is estimated to cost an additional ~\$350,000 to ~\$1.2M. The more economical disposal option would require heavier equipment, which might exceed the capacity of the bridges accessing the project site.

The District has reserved the right to reject any and all bids for RFB 202324-1. Based on the estimated ~\$550,000 to \$1.4M Project funding shortfall, outstanding questions regarding the feasibility of mobilizing heavier, but more economical, equipment required to affordably dispose of felled logs, and complications associated with implementing Project in the winter, staff recommend that the Board authorize staff to reject all bids for RFB 202324-1.

Conservancy staff plan to request an additional \$500,000 in grant funding for the project at their Board meeting on November 21, 2024. Additionally, the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project could also potentially provide grant funding for removal of some eucalyptus trees as a source of large woody debris and rootwads to incorporate into the restored floodplain area. District staff propose to provide an update to the District Board in January 2025 regarding options to advance the project based on available funding, which will inform the release of a revised RFB in to secure a contractor for project implementation in 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board authorize the rejection of all bids for RFB 202324-1 Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Project Bid Form: Bay Area Tree Service](#)
2. [Garland Ranch Regional Park Fuel Mitigation Project Bid For: Huertas Tree Service & Development Inc.](#)