
Memorandum

Date: March 19, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with Tim Best, Certified Engineering Geologist, as Project Engineer to provide engineering oversight of construction of Old Haul Road: Dark Gulch Crossing Stabilization Project, Pescadero Creek County Park, Loma Mar

RCD staff recommends contracting with Tim Best, (CA Certified Engineering Geologist (No. 1682), CA Professional Geologist (No. 5277), and Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (No. 4353), for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be Project Engineer providing engineering oversight of construction of a project on Old Haul Road to stabilize a large failing creek crossing, install a culvert on Old Haul Road at Dark Gulch, a tributary to Pescadero Creek, and make drainage improvements along two miles of Old Haul Road at Dark Gulch. The project is located in Pescadero Creek County Park in Loma Mar.

This project will prevent chronic and future soil erosion and sedimentation, and will improve habitat conditions and water quality in the Pescadero-Butano watershed for the benefit of native fish and other riparian species. Stabilizing the crossing will also significantly reduce the current risk of a catastrophic road failure, resulting in safer access for recreation, administrative and emergency purposes for San Mateo County Parks Department (Parks) and CAL FIRE. This project will be funded by Parks (75%) and the State Water Resources Control Board through a U.S. EPA Clean Water Act section 319 grant for the 2019 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (25%).

Development of the engineering approach for stabilizing the Dark Gulch crossing was uniquely challenging due to the size and characteristics of the creek crossing: 70 feet deep with very steep slopes and more than 37,000 cubic yards (enough to bury a football field six feet deep) of unstable material including large decaying logs. It required the expertise of an engineering geologist (Project Engineer) with experience with this type of project and site conditions, supported by a geotechnical engineer with similar experience. Tim Best was Project Engineer. He directed the geotechnical testing and analysis of the existing crossing, and developed and evaluated multiple design alternatives and construction approaches for reconstructing the crossing in a manner that would meet safety, environmental, and access requirements. He then prepared detailed designs, plan sets, and technical specifications for the preferred alternative

of removing the unstable crossing material, installing a large-capacity culvert and reconstructing a smaller, stable crossing.

Oversight of construction by the Project Engineer is necessary to ensure that the construction process and project outcomes meet the rigorous project technical specifications and designs; and to direct and oversee any modifications to specifications required during construction. Note that the Project Engineer provides engineering oversight of the construction contractors' activities, as well as the geotechnical engineering consultants' soils and compaction monitoring and testing work.

The Public Contract Bidding, Vendor and Professional Consultant Selection, and Purchasing Policy adopted by this Board of Directors on March 20, 2014 requires solicitation of formal advertised bids for expenditures exceeding \$50,000. The policy allows exceptions to standard purchasing procedures in some circumstances, including when "services are of a unique type, are of a proprietary nature, or are otherwise of such a required and specific design or construction, or are specifically necessary for purposes of maintaining cost effective system consistency, so as to be available from only one source."

The work proposed meets this criterion because:

- Tim Best is uniquely qualified to provide the services of the type required, having managed and coordinated all engineering tasks for the planning and design of this project.
- In 2018, Tim Best was the project engineer, providing the same engineering planning, design and construction oversight services, for the RCD's successfully completed upgrades of two other crossings on Old Haul Road at Harwood and Keystone Creeks. The Dark Gulch project will benefit from his experience gained in overseeing these other smaller but similar projects at different sites in the same location.