

Memorandum

Date: September 17, 2026
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with Ventana Forestry to perform storm preparedness and hazard tree and debris management services

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve contracting with Ventana Forestry for storm preparedness and hazard debris management services in an amount of \$80,000 with a contract maximum not to exceed \$200,000.

Ventana Forestry will support winter storm preparation and flood mitigation, including identification, assessment, and removal of hazardous wood and debris accumulations in Pescadero Creek that pose risks to public infrastructure, emergency access routes, public safety, and creek function. Similar services were successfully performed by Ventana Forestry for the RCD during the 2023 winter storm response effort.

The RCD's procurement policy establishes the District's requirements for procurement of services and allows exceptions to competitive procurement requirements under certain circumstances. Section 5.2.2 of the policy provides an exception when work or services are needed to maintain compatibility and continuity with an existing project or program and are provided by a contractor who has previously satisfactorily performed similar work for the District. Staff recommends use of this exception for this procurement.

Ventana Forestry previously performed winter storm response and hazardous debris removal services for the RCD in the Pescadero watershed and successfully completed that work in coordination with RCD staff and project partners. The current effort builds on that prior work and will require ongoing evaluation, prioritization, and implementation of debris management actions based on field conditions and storm preparedness needs. Maintaining continuity with a contractor familiar with the project areas, operational requirements, access constraints, and previous debris management activities will improve efficiency and support consistent implementation of storm preparedness. The locations, quantities, and prioritization of potential debris-removal actions will be developed jointly by staff, RCD consultants and the contractor based on evolving field conditions, making it impractical to prepare a sufficiently defined scope of work for a traditional competitive solicitation at this time.