

County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department



24-4954

DATE: April 16, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Don Rocha, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Change Order No. 1 for the Mt. Madonna Fuel Reduction Project at Mt. Madonna County Park

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Contract Change Order No. 1 - Interim - for the Mt. Madonna Fuel Reduction Project at Mt. Madonna County Park, Contract No. 23-17. Contractor - Anvil Builders, Inc. Net increase of \$370,998, an increase of 30 calendar days, and no change in Supplemental Work Allowance. (LA-1)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact to the County General Fund as a result of the recommended action.

The cost of Contract Change Order No. 1 shall utilize the Supplemental Work Allowance already approved by the Board of Supervisors. Additional funding for Contract Change Order No. 1 beyond the Supplemental Work Allowance is included in the Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted Budget for forest health management.

CONTRACT HISTORY

On June 27, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Item No. 142) awarded a contract to Anvil Builders, Inc. (the "Contractor", formerly Kingsborough Atlas Tree Surgery, Inc.) in the amount of \$657,059, which included a Supplemental Work Allowance of \$65,706, for a total encumbered amount of \$722,765, and a construction time of three hundred (300) calendar days. The contract was executed on August 8, 2023, and a Notice to Proceed for construction was issued on August 12, 2023.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

Reasons to Approve Contract Change Order

The original scope of work included removal of approximately 21-acres of highly flammable blue gum eucalyptus in two locations within Mt. Madonna County Park and the establishment of a 2-mile long Shaded Fuel Break along Pole Line Road. The plans and specifications were developed by a Registered Professional Forester in collaboration with Parks and Recreation Department (the "Department") staff.

After the award of contract and project commencement, additional eucalyptus trees outside of the limit of work and hazardous dead and dying trees along Pole Line Road were discovered. The extent of the invasive and dead hazard trees was not accounted for in the original scope and duration of the project contract. Removal of these trees will be most efficiently addressed during this contract period. Including the additional removals will further reduce the risk of wildfire by effectively removing all eucalyptus in the area and conserve funding by not having to rebid or remobilize a contractor to perform the work.

Department staff negotiated the value of these additional scope items consistent with the pricing submitted by the Contractor in their Schedule of Values submitted during pre-construction. The County is receiving fair value for the cost of the work in the Change Order.

Mt. Madonna Fuel Reduction Project

The Mt. Madonna Fuel Reduction Project (the “Project”) is in the process of implementing two top-priority forest management and wildfire risk reduction projects identified in the 2018 Mt. Madonna Forest Health Plan (the “Plan”). The Plan was developed to address high rates of tree mortality due to drought stress and soil pathogens, resulting high fuels loads, and encroachment of highly flammable non-native trees in the forests of Mt. Madonna County Park. The Plan and its CEQA determination were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on February 26, 2019 (Item No. 69).

In March 2020, the County accepted \$828,574 of California Climate Investments (CCI) Grant funds through the CALFIRE Fire Prevention Grant Program. Since the award of the grant funds, the Department has conducted public outreach on the Project through demonstration projects, education programs and outreach to tribal organizations, park visitors and other stakeholders and has completed project planning and development of project specifications. As part of the grant award, the Department has coordinated with CALFIRE for the implementation of these wildfire prevention actions. Additionally, the Department has coordinated this and other projects with the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council to improve emergency egress for mountain communities.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth through the **Healthy Lifestyle** indicator as the Project will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in a forest used by numerous youth groups and residents. Improvement of forest conditions will ensure that future generations will enjoy the ecological benefits of a high-quality redwood forest, oak woodlands, and mountain meadows and the health benefits afforded by such natural open spaces.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors as the Project will improve forest conditions and reduce the risk of intense wildfire that could require temporary but long-lasting closure of public lands.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have a positive impact on sustainability by improving forest

health and ensuring the duration of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat and watershed functions.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Forest conditions would not be improved at Mt. Madonna County Park and accumulations of dead and dying vegetation and invasive eucalyptus would not be removed. The risk of catastrophic wildfire would continue to rise.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Send notification to Stephen Koren, Michael Rhoades, and Jennifer Nuñez, Parks and Recreation Department.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A – Change Order No. 1
- Attachment B – Levine Act Form