
Memorandum

Date: April 17, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to contract with Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation for the Little Butano Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project

RCD staff recommends the board of directors approve contracting with Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation (“Hanford”) to implement the Little Butano Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project. This project will remediate a fish passage barrier and improve stream and wetland habitat on Little Butano Creek in the Pescadero-Butano Watershed.

This effort builds on decades of watershed investments to restore passage, restore floodplains and lagoons, and improve flows, as well as technical lessons-learned regarding incision reversal from the 2021 Butano Creek Channel Stabilization and Habitat Enhancement at Cloverdale Road Bridge and the 2016 Butano Floodplain Reconnection. This project will address the current limit of anadromy on Little Butano Creek: a 15-foot-tall bedrock chute located approximately 1,000 feet upstream from the confluence of Butano and Little Butano Creeks. The bedrock chute is a total barrier to fish migration and is believed to have formed due to historic realignment and straightening of the creek, which led to subsequent rampant incision. This project will expand aquatic habitat, provide shelter and refugia for fish within the reach and passage to upstream habitat, reduce erosion and incision, and allow for greater retention of sediment.

A Request for Bids was distributed to approximately 80 construction contractors and shared publicly via the RCD’s website, San Mateo Daily Journal, and three trade journals. Fifteen firms attended a mandatory pre-bid site tour. Four of the fifteen firms submitted bids by the deadline of April 8, 2025. Bids were opened during a public bid opening held on April 8, 2025 with the following results:

- Hanford (\$2,697,289.00)
- Brannon Corporation (\$2,942,734.00)
- ETIC (\$2,985,835.00)
- Fees Trucking & Construction (\$3,753,750.51)

The RCD and the consulting engineer for the project, Waterways Consulting, Inc. reviewed the bid documents and determined that Hanford was the lowest cost, responsible bidder for the

project. Hanford has local experience on projects involving creeks, large wood, and habitat restoration. Additionally, the RCD worked with the firm to successfully complete both phases of the Green Oaks Restoration Project in 2022-2023, and the Butano Creek Channel Stabilization and Habitat Enhancement at Cloverdale Road Bridge Project in 2021, which is located immediately adjacent to this project and shares the same private landowner.

Figure 1. Project Location Map

Little Butano Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement Project Location



● Chute Location (total barrier)

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

