



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Angie Gruys, Program Specialist  
**RE:** Agenda Item 6.2 Recommendation to procure a contractor for the Amber Ridge Loop Sediment Reduction Project  
**Date:** 7/10/2024

This is an update to the previously approved Amber Ridge Loop Project. Last year all bids came in over budget and were subsequently rejected. The project scope has been increased to include the replacement of a stream crossing culvert, the cost estimate has been increased and additional funding secured. Due to the added Stream Crossing Culvert the project also required permits. All permits have been secured through PIR except the CDFW Stream Bed Alteration Agreement which has been submitted and is expected to be approved the first week of September. The CDFW permit is only required for the Steam Crossing culvert so the other work can begin on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

RCD staff recommend entering into a Construction contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the Amber Ridge Loop Sediment Reduction Project. The project is currently out to bid and there were two contractors present at the mandatory bid walk on June 24, 2024. Bid opening is scheduled for July 8, 2024. The engineer's cost estimate is between **\$165,000 and \$210,000** to upgrade ditch relief culverts placed at a similar alignment and grade, replace one stream crossing culvert and rock and install seven (8) reverse grade dips (rolling dips). The purpose of the project is to reduce sediment in surface waters of the San Lorenzo River Watershed. This road received a formal road assessment by Pacific Watershed Associated in 2007. The RCD implemented several high priority projects from that assessment in 2008. The portions of the project we are proposing ranked as medium priority in the PWA assessment, but our engineer estimates them to now be med-high priority due to continued erosion. One section of the proposed project that was not evaluated as part of the original PWA assessment is considered medium-high priority. The project will be reviewed by at least three TAC members via email prior to entering into a contract. This project is very similar to the Conley Road project which was the highest ranked project by the TAC and staff. Staff recommend this project.

The contract will be paid with funding from the Regional Water Management Foundation (Award P1R1IMP\_LPS\_4600013804, state funding), the State Water Resource Control Board (Award D1913304 state and federal funding), settlement funds from the County of Santa Cruz, and private funds from the Landowner.

The proposed project will remove and upgrade two existing ditch relief culverts and add one new ditch relief culvert. This project will also add eight reverse grade dips (rolling dips). Four of them will cover approximately 1500 linear feet of road and the other three about 350 linear feet of road and are diverted water away from a failed culvert.

This is a state, federal and private funded project. According to the District's 1080 Procurement Policy, a construction project with an estimated cost of over \$60,000.00 falls under the 1080.7.1.2 Informal Bid Process. Therefore, bid solicitation will follow the 1080.7.2 Informal Bid Process; bids were emailed to a minimum of three contractors and follow Good Faith Efforts to identify Disadvantage Business Entities.



RCD staff recommends this project because:

- It received an assessment from Pacific Watershed Associated in 2007 and will reduce both episodic and chronic sediment loading into Bear Creek, a tributary for the San Lorenzo River Watershed.
- The San Lorenzo River Watershed has a sediment TMDL that specially identified rural roads and failing culverts as sources of controllable sediment that need to be addressed.

It is therefore recommended that the Board approve entering a Construction contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the Amber Ridge Loop Sediment Reduction Project.