

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-D

MONTEREY PENINSULA REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

DATE: April 1, 2026
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Jake Smith, Planning & Conservation Program Manager
REVIEWED BY: Eric Morgan, General Manager *E. Morgan*
SUBJECT: Approval To Amend Contract with Denise Duffy and Associates for Native Plant Propagation Services

SUMMARY

Staff request that the Board authorize and direct the General Manager to amend MPRPD's agreement with Denise Duffy & Associates, Inc. (DD&A) for native plant propagation and materials acquisition services for the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$20,025.06 of additional nursery contract grow and plant acquisition services.

FUNDING SOURCE

The Project is funded by \$35,000,000 in state and federal funding secured by the State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board. No local match is required for implementation.

FUNDING BALANCE

Funding is anticipated to be maintained via advance grant payments that will be issued by the State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board.

DISCUSSION

Background

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) is currently advancing the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project. MPRPD holds an existing contract with DD&A, originally dated April 15, 2023, to manage native seed collection, amplification, and the nursery contract grow required to revegetate the site. The original contract and its five subsequent add-ons (001 through 005) established a not-to-exceed budget of \$802,778.73. During the ongoing regulatory review and project implementation, two distinct agency mandates required adjustments to the project's Phase 2 nursery contract grow with Central Coast Wilds (CCW):

1. California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW): A permit requirement stipulating the inclusion of fall-blooming plant species.
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): A mandatory 1:1 mitigation requirement under the 2025 Programmatic Biological Opinion to replace seacliff buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*), an obligate host plant for the federally endangered Smith's blue butterfly, impacted during Phase 2 grading.

To comply with these mandates, DD&A coordinated with the project designers at Applied River Sciences and CCW to identify viable species and secure the necessary plant stock.

This proposed Add-On Proposal (Amendment No. 6) encompasses the following additions:

- CDFW-Required Fall-Blooming Species: DD&A collected native seed from Carmel River State Beach and Carmel Valley Village in late 2025. CCW will propagate a total of 3,000 additional units to be delivered in AB34 containers by September 1, 2026. The species include 2,000 Coastal Gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*), 500 Common Gumplant (*Grindelia camporum*), and 500 Rosilla (*Helenium puberulum*).
- USFWS-Required Seacliff Buckwheat Mitigation: In accordance with the project's Smith's Blue Butterfly Habitat Restoration Plan, impacted plants must be replaced. This amendment includes the propagation and delivery of 120 seacliff buckwheat plants. These will be grown in AB34 containers and are scheduled for delivery on October 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approving this amendment ensures that MPRPD remains in strict compliance with our CDFW and USFWS project approval requirements , preventing costly project delays and ensuring the habitat restoration successfully supports the endangered Smith's blue butterfly.

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board:

1. Authorize and direct the General Manager to execute the amendment to the agreement with DD&A increasing the Not-to-Exceed amount by \$20,025.06 for a new total contract amount of \$822,803.79, substantially as to form.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Amended DD&A Contract 202223-500-05](#)
2. [Draft DD&A Contract Amendment 6](#)