

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6-G

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. S. Morgan*
SUBJECT: Authorization to Develop and Release a Request for Bids (RFB) for Invasive Plant Management Services

SUMMARY

Staff request Board authorization to develop and release a Request for Bids (RFB) for professional invasive plant control services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total expenditure for these services is expected to exceed \$40,000. The final fiscal obligation will be determined through a competitive bidding process and presented to the Board for approval at the time of contract award.

FUNDING SOURCE

- Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project Grant Fund
- Planning & Conservation Services accounts
- Community Facilities District (CFD) Services accounts

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 District completed a comprehensive IPMP for the 180-acre Rancho Cañada site in June 2025. This plan identified over 31 acres of invasive species, specifically prioritizing the removal of Cape ivy, French broom, and giant reed to protect native plantings and salmonid habitat. While construction crews handle large-scale removal within graded footprints, specialized technical expertise and ongoing maintenance is required to prevent re-establishment. The IPMP emphasizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

approach, focusing on non-chemical methods wherever feasible. Primary treatment strategies include:

- **Manual and Mechanical Removal:** The core of this effort focuses on precise hand-pulling, weed-wrenching, and targeted excavation. This labor-intensive approach is designed to protect the sensitive native understory.
- **Rigorous Biomass Containment:** To prevent re-infestation without chemicals, the scope mandates "black-bagging" and deep burial (5+ feet) of reproductive materials like rhizomes.
- **Biological/Cultural Competition:** Long-term success relies on high-density native planting to "shade out" invaders, creating a natural, self-sustaining ecosystem that reduces the need for future intervention.
- **Strict Chemical Restrictions:** The use of herbicides is strictly prohibited unless a specific, written exception is granted by District staff on a case by case basis.

Specific treatment methods for each project phase and location will be determined based on site-specific conditions and in close consultation with IPMP professionals to ensure the most effective and least impactful approach is utilized as feasible or practicable within the means and resources of the District. To support continued District operations and maximize administrative efficiency, staff will include a provision for on-call services within the RFB.

Staff will develop the Request for Bids (RFB) and manage the solicitation process in compliance with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District's Purchasing Policy (No. 3007) and all applicable public bidding requirements. As the anticipated expenditure for the core project and potential on-call tasks is expected to exceed \$40,000, prior Board approval is required to initiate the formal bidding process per the District's Purchasing Policy.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff respectfully recommend that the Board:

1. Authorize staff to develop and release a Request for Bids (RFB) for invasive plant control services, focusing on the Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project and establishing District-wide on-call service capacity; and
2. Direct staff to return to a future Board meeting with a recommendation for a contract award to the lowest responsible bidder following the formal bidding process.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Rancho Cañada Floodplain Restoration Project Invasive Plant Management Plan \(June 2025\)](#)