

RESOLUTION NO.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING: A) THE SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (“RCD”), IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PARKS DEPARTMENT, TO IMPLEMENT PLANNED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN PESCADERO CREEK COUNTY PARK USING CAL FIRE FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS AWARDED TO THE RCD, PURSUANT TO THE PARKS DEPARTMENT’S CLIMATE AND HABITAT RESILIENCY PLAN; AND B) THE PARKS DIRECTOR, OR THE PARKS DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE RCD, IN A FORM APPROVED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, TO OFFSET THE COSTS OF THE PLANNED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AT PESCADERO CREEK COUNTY PARK BY PERMITTING THE RCD AND ITS CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE AND SELL RAW FELLED TIMBER GENERATED THROUGH THE PROJECT UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF THE PARKS DEPARTMENT.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, in response to the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, the San Mateo County Parks Department (“Department”) and its contractor, Auten Resource Consulting (“ARC”)—in consultation with a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of current and former Department staff, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CAL FIRE”), the RCD, Green Foothills, Peninsula Open Space Trust (“POST”), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”), and California State Parks—developed the Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan (“CHRP”) for Pescadero Creek County Park (“Park”); and

WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the CHRP is to promote the presence and enhancement of native species, habitats, and ecosystems in the park that are

resilient to disturbance (i.e. wildfire, drought, and disease) and the impacts of climate change, with desired outcomes that include: the development of old growth redwood trees and habitat characteristics, the reduction of fire fuels that contribute to the threat of catastrophic wildfire, the promotion of carbon sequestration to combat climate change, the improvement of wildlife habitat including creation of additional high quality nesting habitat for the federally protected marbled murrelet, the increase of forest stand diversity, and the control/reduction of non-native invasive species; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Supervisors adopted the CHRP at its December 6, 2022 meeting, with the provision to return to present on the planned implementation of projects established in the CHRP; and

WHEREAS, the Department partnered with the RCD and YMCA of San Francisco (who owns and manages the neighboring Camp Jones Gulch property) to apply for and receive \$5.5 million in CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program funds made available by CAL FIRE for active restoration and reforestation projects that promote more resilient forests, mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect communities from fire risk; and

WHEREAS, the RCD and CAL FIRE executed a grant agreement on October 29, 2024 to fund the above-referenced forest management projects in and around the Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will utilize two science-based conservation treatment methods—selective thinning and mechanical mastication—to achieve its objectives which are to: (1) mitigate the threat of wildfire by reducing the amount of

fire fuels present in the park while retaining a mosaic of vegetation for wildlife habitat and (2) restore healthy forest ecosystems by reducing dead and dying trees and thinning overly dense and unhealthy tree stands allowing the remaining trees to grow larger and healthier by better accessing critical resources such as water and sunlight; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the project to occur in the Park will be implemented in two phases and across 541 acres; and

WHEREAS, Phase one will entail the mechanical mastication of approximately 430 acres, and to create healthier forest conditions and reduce the amount of fire fuels present in the park, vegetation under eight inches in diameter will be masticated; this work will begin as early as August 2025; and

WHEREAS, Phase two will entail selective thinning of 111 acres, targeting second-growth redwood and Douglas-fir trees that are between 18 and 30 inches in diameter; upon completion of selective thinning, the 111 acres will be mechanically masticated to reduce excessive vegetation on the forest floor which hinders healthy ecosystem function and contributes to the spread and severity of wildfires; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the standards established in the CHRP, for the selective thinning activities, at least 50 percent of trees between 18 and 30 inches in diameter will be retained; for this project no trees greater than 30 inches in diameter will be removed unless they are considered a safety hazard; and

WHEREAS, when adopting the CHRP, the Board of Supervisors expressed a

willingness to sell timber that resulted from forest health and fuel reduction projects at the park provided that (i) trees were only removed to improve the ecological function of the forest and to mitigate the threat of wildfire and not for their commercial value and (ii) any revenue generated from the sale of timber from the park would be used for the direct benefit of forest restoration at Pescadero Creek County Park; and

WHEREAS, to offset the cost of the project and fund ecologically restorative forest management work, it is proposed that the licensed timber operator contracted by the RCD to perform selective thinning activities would remove and sell any felled redwood and Douglas fir trees that cannot be left on site as mulch or habitat features, which is anticipated to offset project costs by approximately 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, a registered professional forester on contract with the County will be responsible for marking trees for removal pursuant to the parameters established in the CHRP and project permits, such that the licensed timber operator will have no influence on which trees are removed or retained and no trees will be removed for the purpose of financial gain; and

WHEREAS, the proposed selective thinning activities qualify for a CAL FIRE Forest Resilience Exemption under Title 14 CCR § 1038.3 and the Rules of the Forest Practice Act. The proposed mechanical mastication activities have been analyzed in accordance with the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act, which was approved by the California Board of Forestry in 2019.

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the San Mateo Resource Conservation District ("RCD"), in partnership with the San Mateo County Parks Department and pursuant to the Parks Department's Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan, to implement planned forest management projects in Pescadero Creek County Park using CAL FIRE Forest Health Grant Program funds; and
2. The Parks Director, or the Parks Director's Designee, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the RCD, in a form approved by the County Attorney, to offset the costs of the planned forest management projects at Pescadero Creek County Park by permitting the RCD and its contractor to remove and sell raw felled timber generated through the projects under the oversight of the Parks Department.

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