



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Parks



**Date:** October 23, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** December 9, 2014  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Marlene Finley, Parks Director  
**Subject:** Agreement with Questa Engineering Corp.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Questa Engineering Corp. to provide design services for plans, specifications, cost estimates and permits for the Green Valley Trail project, for the term of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$203,866.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2013, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) completed the double bore Devil's Slide Tunnel Project replacing a section of State Highway 1 and maintaining connectivity between the City of Pacifica and community of Montara. As required by the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) approved in 2004 and the tunnels being completed by early 2013, the bypassed section of Highway 1 needed to be converted into public shoreline recreational access. The abandoned two-lane road section of State Highway 1 opened as the Devil's Slide Trail and is maintained and operated by the Parks Department as a section of the California Coastal Trail. Numerous mitigations were adopted as part of the CDP with the County fulfilling its obligations under the agreement.

On either side of the Devil's Slide Trail are opportunities and visitor demand to develop new sections of the California Coastal Trail. The City of Pacifica and Coastal Conservancy are working on a new trail segment to the north. San Mateo County, Coastal Conservancy and State Parks are working on the Green Valley Trail segment to the south.

In 2006, the California Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy) commissioned a study to identify a preferred route for a new non-motorized pedestrian/equestrian trail that would be known as the Green Valley Trail. The "Linking the California Coastal Trail South of

the Devils Slide Tunnel: Design and Feasibility Study for the Green Valley Trail” offered alternatives including a preferred alternative for a trail to link the Devil’s Slide Trail with existing trails to the south within the McNee Ranch part of Montara State Beach. The Green Valley Trail will be an important future spur to the California Coastal Trail, may serve as a segment for future loop opportunities, and is identified in the Conservancy’s “Completing the California Coastal Trail Report.”

On June 21, 2014 your Board approved Resolution No. 071485 authorizing the application for and acceptance of a \$500,000 grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy. A part of this grant supported the two parking areas of the Devil’s Slide Trail. The balance of the grant supports the design phase of the Green Valley Trail.

The Green Valley Trail will be designed for pedestrian, equestrian and mountain bike use and be composed of natural tread and accessible as much as possible.

The contractor selection procedures in the County of San Mateo’s Administrative Memorandum B-1 were used to select a contractor for design services of the Green Valley Trail. The Request for Proposals Process Matrix describing the process and selected firm is attached as Exhibit A.

**DISCUSSION:**

San Mateo County Parks Department advertised the project through use of a Request for Proposals (RFP). Proposals were solicited from contractors to develop plans, specifications, cost estimates and permits for the Green Valley Trail. The RFP was sent by email to nineteen firms and one clearinghouse and posted on the County Parks website as described in Exhibit A. The Department reviewed proposals submitted by four firms. Based on results of proposal review and interviews of two of the firms, the Department is recommending that Questa Engineering Corp. be retained.

The design phase of the Green Valley Trail includes the preparation of surveys, geotechnical, hydrologic, biological, archaeological and historical studies, public meetings, interactive website, community outreach, design plans, specifications, permits and cost estimates.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and Agreement as to form.

The Contractor meets insurance certification requirements.

The Contractor has assured compliance with the County’s Contractor Employee Jury Service Ordinance, as well as other contract provisions that are required by County ordinance and administrative memoranda, including but not limited to insurance, hold harmless, non-discrimination and equal benefits.

Approval of this Resolution will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community as design of a regional trail increases the number and quality of natural experiences of visitor to the County Parks. Each visitor

that experiences the County's natural resources gains a greater appreciation of the need for their preservation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Agreement has a not-to-exceed amount of \$203,866 which will be used for all design services including the preparation of plans, specifications, cost estimates and permits. Funding for this Agreement comes from a Grant Agreement between the County and California Coastal Conservancy previously approved by your Board. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Exhibit A

Request for Proposals Process Matrix

Green Valley Trail

Development of Plans, Specifications and Permits

County of San Mateo Department of Parks

1.	General Description of RFP	Development of plans, specifications, and permits for the Green Valley Trail, Montara, California.
2.	Listed Key Evaluation Criteria	Firm qualifications and experience, proposed approach, demonstrated knowledge of CEQA and other environmental laws and regulations in a certified coastal program, demonstrated competence in areas of California coastal land use, comparable experience, firm/teams ability, cost, compliance with RFP, schedules and timing.
3.	Locations Advertised	Posting on Parks website.
4.	Others to whom RFP was sent	Email to nineteen (19) landscape architecture, engineering, and environmental resources firms. Email to one (1) clearinghouse.
5.	Total number of RFPs sent to prospective proposers	Nineteen (19)
6.	Number of proposals received	Four (4) firms submitted proposals.
7.	Who evaluated the proposals	Representatives from the Parks Department and California Coastal Conservancy
8.	Name of proposer recommended for agreement	Questa Engineering Corp.
	Total Contract Amount:	\$203,866