



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Parks, Open Spaces, and Cultural Services

Subject: Ratify Contract Amendment Lewis Tree, A Davey Company for Moran Tree Work

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Ratify first amendment to agreement with Davey Tree Expert Company DBA Lewis Tree Service, amending the scope of services for tree work at Moran Lake County Park, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Ratify first amendment to contract with Davey Tree Expert Company DBA Lewis Tree Service amending the scope of services for tree work at Moran Lake County Park;
2. Authorize the Director of Parks, Open Spaces, and Cultural Services or designee to sign the amendment; and
3. Authorize the Director of Parks, Open Spaces, and Cultural Services to execute future contract amendments that do not exceed \$50,000 in aggregate value, without further Board approval, for the purposes of conducting additional tree pruning along the Placer Street windbreak of the eucalyptus grove to reduce the risk of failure as recommended by County Parks' consulting arborist.

Executive Summary

Ratify the first amendment to the contract with Davey Tree Expert Company DBA Lewis Tree Service for tree work at Moran Lake County Park. The contract amendment clarifies tree work requirements to ensure adherence to industry's best practices. It also authorizes potential future tree work along the Placer Street windbreak, if deemed necessary.

Discussion

The Board approved a contract with Lewis Tree Service, a Davey Company (Lewis Tree Service) on May 6, 2025. This \$300,000 agreement includes the removal of all trees on the 40 Moran Way parcel and the pruning of all blue gum eucalyptus trees in the north and south lakeside areas of Moran Lake County Park (Attachment 1). The contract's scope of services requires Lewis Tree Service to reduce both the height and end weight of the trees by approximately 25%.

The Department of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services' (Parks) consulting arborist reviewed this language after Board approval and recommended revisions to align with arboricultural best practices. County staff support these recommendations and seek to ensure that the contractor's work remains under the regular supervision of a certified arborist. This oversight will help confirm that the trimming, reductions, and removals adhere to the highest safety standards.

The proposed contract amendment (Attachment 2) updates the previous contract requirements to incorporate specifications recommended by Parks' arborist. These revisions will maintain the original risk reduction goals while ensuring that the tree work

is performed in a manner that prioritizes long-term health and safety while adhering to arboricultural best practices. Board approval is requested to amend the contract, accordingly, incorporating the arborist-recommend changes and requiring regular arborist monitoring.

Additionally, residents along Placer Street have hired their own arborist to conduct risk assessments on several blue gum eucalyptus trees along the Placer windbreak at the edge of the eucalyptus grove (area H in Attachment 1). Their arborist has advised that these trees be either pruned or removed to reduce risk. In accordance with departmental practices, Parks will engage our consulting arborist to conduct an independent risk assessment. If applicable, Parks' arborist will recommend appropriate management actions to mitigate risk.

Board approval is requested to authorize the Director of Parks to approve future contract amendments with Lewis Tree Service to address any necessary tree work along Placer Street, should County Parks' arborist determine that correction is required.

The tree work at Moran Lake County Park supports the Parks Strategic Plan goals of 1. Great Facilities and 4. Effective Stewardship.

Financial Impact

The cost of Contract 25C5097 with Lewis Tree Service, a Davey Company, is \$300,000. Sufficient appropriations are available under account 492300-61848/RP0034 (Parks Operations Maintenance – Maintenance-Structures/Grounds-Other-Service) from the Risk Management Fund, as previously approved. Any amendments up to \$50,000 will need to be absorbed within the Parks Operating Budget unless another funding source is identified. At this time, no new County General Funds are needed or requested.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment, Operational Excellence
Climate Action - Natural & Working Lands, Wildfire Prevention

Submitted By:

Jeff Gaffney, Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.