



STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Tamalpais Lands Collaborative (TLC) Update
SUBMITTED BY: Crystal Yezman, Division Manager, Facilities and Watershed Division
RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Refer to Board of Directors with recommendation to approve Tamalpais Land Collaborative (TLC) 2016 Work Plan; and 2) refer to Board of Directors approval to create Citizen Advisory Committee for MMWD’s Participation in the TLC and appoint nominees

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This TLC update includes five items as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED ACTION</u>
1) Proposed TLC 2016 Work Plan	Refer to the Board for Approval
2) Log Cabin Project Update	Provide input on draft project statement
3) West Peak Restoration Project	Provide input on terms for a future project statement
4) Citizens Advisory Committee	Refer to the Board for Approval
5) Recent TLC Activities	None

The TLC Executive Team held a public meeting at the Mill Valley Community Center on October 4, 2015, where the draft TLC 2016 Work Plan was presented for public comment. The draft plan is presented to the committee for its review with a recommendation to refer to the board of directors for approval. The plan includes proposed work related to the Log Cabin at Phoenix Lake and the West Peak Restoration project.

An update will be given on the ongoing work to prepare a basis of design for the Log Cabin Project as well as a draft of a project statement that describes the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy) support role for building awareness and assessing fundraising options. The Log Cabin project statement would be ratified by an amendment to the MMWD/Parks Conservancy Cooperative Agreement, which staff plans on bringing back to the Board at the January 2016 District Operations Committee.

Staff will also present a proposed course of action for conducting planning work and building awareness for the West Peak Restoration Project and is seeking board input on the terms for the project statement.

At the September 10, 2015, Watershed Committee, the board clarified direction for the establishment of a citizen advisory committee for MMWD's participation in the TLC. Staff will present a list of candidates based on board nominations with a recommendation to refer to the board of directors for approval.

Lastly, staff will present recent activities associated with the TLC, including a briefing on the October 4, 2015 Celebrate Tam and Tam Talk event, introduction of new Parks Conservancy staff, presentation of the TLC annual report and overview of the supporter website.

FISCAL IMPACT: **YES** _____ **NO** x **FISCAL YEAR:** _____

FISCAL IMPACT NARRATIVE: N/A

BACKGROUND:

I. TLC 2016 Work Plan

The TLC 2016 Work Plan (attached) and associated financial forecast were presented at a public meeting of the TLC Executive Committee ("Tam Talk") on October 4, 2015, at the Mill Valley Community Center. According to the TLC Memorandum of Understanding the partner agencies agreed to develop a "5 Year List" of projects and programs that are compatible with the purpose and vision of the TLC so as to guide fundraising activities. A comprehensive 5 Year vision document and project and program list for the TLC was approved by the MMWD Board of Directors on November 10, 2014. In order to provide more discrete accounting of activities and expenditures, agency staff has developed an annual work plan that details project and programs implementation, fundraising, and volunteer engagement. This work plan is reviewed and approved by agency executives and elected boards.

The 2016 work plan includes both program and project support. Program support includes the continuation and expansion of the mountain-wide habitat restoration, weed management, citizen science, volunteer stewardship and youth education programs. These programs are integrally linked to, and add capacity to the District's existing program areas. A proposed symposium in 2016 will focus on biodiversity and Mt Tam's natural resources, to include developing a "report card" on the health of some of those resources. The work plan also includes several proposed projects, several of which are detailed in the sections below.

Staff requests that the Watershed Committee refer the TLC 2016 Work Plan to Board of Directors with a recommendation to approve.

II. Log Cabin Project Update

The Log Cabin at Phoenix Lake is a historic resource treasured by the community and is in urgent need of renovation. Towards that end the district has retained the services of landscape

and historic architecture consultants to conduct a basis for design report that evaluates alternatives for managing the facility, which will ultimately result in a recommended approach to be presented to the board for approval.

The Parks Conservancy role in the this project will be to provide assistance with community engagement with the planning of this project and to assess overall fundability of the project, engage with potential donors, and provide an assessment on funding feasibility and a possible fundraising approach.

Planning work to date includes development of four alternatives with preliminary cost estimates. The alternatives considered are: 1) renovation; 2) partial renovation; 3) moth balling; and removal of the cabin. Staff is planning an on-site presentation of these alternatives at an open house at the cabin early next year.

Staff requests that the Watershed Committee review the draft project statement for collaboration with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy) on Log Cabin project tasks and provide input. Staff plans on bringing back the project statement with Board input as Amendment #2 to MMWD/ Parks Conservancy Agreement at the January 2016 District Operations Committee meeting

III. Possible approach for implementing a basis for design report and related initial planning effort for the West Peak Restoration Project

At the September 10, 2015, Watershed Committee meeting, staff presented a range of models used by other partner land management agencies when working collaboratively with the Parks Conservancy. These models illustrated ways in which the Conservancy would increase support and capacity as a cooperator, including: fund-raising, communications, design, project management and public engagement.

In order to develop a detailed project statement for the restoration of West Peak, staff is proposing a comprehensive planning study that begins with a series of technical studies (to include geotechnical, environmental, etc.) in order to determine the opportunities and constraints inherent at the site. At the same time staff is proposing a concurrent public engagement program to involve interested public and community groups in understanding the area's ecology, restoration opportunities and constraints, and history. The goal is to gain public feedback and ideas in the development of the kinds of restoration activities that could be included in a preliminary design.

Part of the mission of the TLC is to unite the resources and expertise of the agency partners to achieve shared goals and increase stewardship. The administration of the West Peak technical studies and community engagement work will require dedicated project management and communications support. As a cooperator, the Parks Conservancy has provided this type

support to both the National Park Service and California State Parks, leveraging agency resources and building capacity. The cooperative agreement with the Parks Conservancy provides a general framework for the District to work with the Parks Conservancy in a similar capacity, while maintaining District authority, technical oversight and administration of the work products and overall approach. The agreement also stipulates that the Parks Conservancy will provide general services of its existing management staff, many of who have a wide range of project management, design and resource skills that can complement District staff. This type of support would enable MMWD to accomplish projects that could not otherwise be done with current MMWD staff resources.

Based upon the above, attached is a summary of a potential collaborative approach to facilitating the implementation of the West Peak Restoration. This summary provides for the basis of a project statement that staff would like to bring to the board in a future meeting. Staff requests board input on the potential terms for this agreement.

IV. Citizen Advisory Committee for MMWD Participation in the TLC

At the September 10, 2015, Watershed committee meeting, the board provided specific direction to staff on its preferences for the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee for MMWD Participation in the TLC (CAC). Based on that direction, staff now proposes the following for the CAC:

- The purpose of the committee is to review projects and programs of the district that are being supported through the TLC for consistency with district policies – specifically those policies intended to provide for the long term health of district watershed lands.
- The committee will comprise seven people, one member appointed by each Board Member plus two members at large appointed by the General Manager.
- The committee will serve a minimum one year term, or until such time that the Board dissolves the committee. The committee will elect a chair and co-chair from its ranks.
- The committee will meet as a noticed public meeting at least twice per year and will be supported by MMWD staff. Staff may arrange field trips in addition to the meetings.
- A committee representative will report to the watershed committee twice per year.

The recommended committee members are:

- Priscilla Bull, Kentfield (Director Gibson's nominee)
- Karen Betzner, Mill Valley (Director Koehler's nominee)
- Jerry Reisen, Tiburon (Director Russell's nominee)
- Roger Roberts, San Rafael (Director Quintero's nominee)
- Phil Sotter, Woodacre (Director Bragman's nominee)
- Gary Yost, Mill Valley (GM's nominee)

- TBD, San Anselmo (GM's nominee)

Staff requests that the Watershed Committee refer the committee nominations and the guidelines listed above to the Board of Directors with a recommendation to approve. Assuming approval of this proposal, staff intends to hold the first CAC meeting in February 2016.

V. Recent and Planned Activities Related to the TLC/One Tam

Staff will provide a brief report on the following items:

- Celebrating Tam and Tam Talk
- New One Tam staff introduction & program focus
- First TLC/One Tam Annual Report
- Supporter page on website

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The requested actions aligns with the district's Strategic Plan Goal 4: Environmental Stewardship, Strategy 2 – Increase community engagement in stewardship of Mt. Tamalpais as water and community asset: Objective 1 - Develop projects and programs for the Tamalpais Lands Collaborative and Objective 2 - Increase volunteer and education program capacity through public-private and not-for-profit partnerships.

REVIEWED BY:	Finance Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	General Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	General Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTACHMENTS:

1. TLC 2016 Work Plan and Financial Forecast
2. Project Statement for Collaboration with Parks Conservancy on Log Cabin Project
3. Proposed model for West Peak Planning
4. October 3, 2015 Tam Talk public comments