



## NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, September 02, 2025 at 6:30 PM

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### AGENDA

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#### LOCATIONS:

**Open Session to start at or after 6:30 p.m.**

Marin Water Board Room – 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Closed Session to immediately follow open session**

Marin Water Mt. Tam Conference Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

#### Public Participation:

The public may attend this meeting in-person or remotely using one of the following methods:

On a computer or smart device, go to: <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/88134852296>

By phone, dial: **1-669-444-9171** and use Webinar ID: **881 3485 2296**

#### HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

**During the Meeting:** Typically, you will have 3 minutes to make your public comment, however, the board president may shorten the amount of time for public comment due to a large number of attendees. Furthermore, pursuant to Government Code, section 54954.2 (the Brown Act), the Board may not take action or discuss any item that does not appear on the agenda.

-- **In-Person Attendee:** Fill out a speaker card and provide to the board secretary. List the number/letter (ex: 6a) of the agenda item(s), for which you would like to provide a comment. Once you're called, proceed to the lectern to make your comment.

-- **Remote Attendee:** Use the "raise hand" button on the bottom of the Zoom screen. If you are joining by phone and would like to comment, press \*9. The board secretary will use the last four digits of your phone number to call on you (dial \*6 to mute/unmute).

**In Advance of the Meeting:** Submit your comments by email in advance of the meeting to [boardcomment@marinwater.org](mailto:boardcomment@marinwater.org). To ensure that your comment is provided to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting, please email your comment 24 hours in advance of the meeting start time. Comments received after this cut off time will be sent to the Board after the meeting. Please do not include personal information in your comment such as phone numbers and home addresses.

## AGENDA ITEMS:

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

### 3. Regular Item

- [a.](#) Dedication of the Pine Mountain Tanks in Honor of Former Board Member Jack Gibson

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a resolution to name the Pine Mountain Tanks in recognition of Jack Gibson for his contributions through many years of dedicated service as a member of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors

### 4. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s) - None.

### 5. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out - Not applicable.

### 6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

This is the time when any person may address the Board of Directors on matters not listed on this agenda, but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

### 7. Directors' and General Manager's Announcements (6:45 p.m. – Time Approximate)

### 8. Board Committee Reports

Each Committee Chair or Vice Chair will provide a report on recent committee meetings. Directors may ask questions or provide brief comments or requests for additional information on an item.

### 9. Consent Items (6:55 p.m. – Time Approximate)

All Consent Items will be enacted by a single action of the Board, unless specific items are pulled from Consent by the Board during adoption of the agenda for separate discussion and action.

- [a.](#) August 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on August 19, 2025

- [b.](#) Agreement with Synactive Inc. to Convert and Migrate Existing GuiXT Scripts to LiquidUI

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute two professional services agreements (MA-6464 and MA-6435) with Synactive Inc. to convert and migrate GuiXT scripts to LiquidUI for a total amount not to exceed \$308,963

### 10. Regular Item (7:00 p.m. – Time Approximate)

- [a.](#) Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Grant Funding and Prescribed Burn Planning

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update on BFFIP grant funding and the District's prescribed burn planning

### 11. Future Board and Committee Meetings and Upcoming Agenda Items

This schedule lists upcoming board and committee meetings as well as upcoming agenda items for the next month, which may include Board interest in adding future meeting items. The schedule is tentative and subject to change pending final publication and posting of the meeting agendas.

- [a.](#) Upcoming Meetings

## **12. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s)**

Following announcement of Closed Session items and prior to recess into Closed Session, the public may speak up to three minutes on items to be addressed in Closed Session. The Board will convene to Closed Session in the Mt. Tam Conference Room after public comment.

### **a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Initiation of Litigation**

*(California Government Code §54956.9(d)(4))*

**Number of Potential Cases:** One

### **b. Conference with Real Property Negotiations**

*(California Government Code §54956.8)*

**Property:** 10 Tara View Road, Tiburon; 361 East Strawberry Drive, Mill Valley; APN: 029-042-74, adjacent to Corte Madera Avenue, Mill Valley

**Agency Negotiation:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

**Negotiating Parties:** Bob Brockrob, Greg Dedona, and Kimberly Boswell

**Under Negotiation:** Price and Terms of Payment

### **c. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation**

*(California Government Code 54956.9)*

Delta Grinding Company, Inc. v. Town of Fairfax; Marin Municipal Water District Marin County Superior Court, Case No. CV0006328

Adjourn closed session and reconvene to open session in the Board Room and via Zoom.

## **13. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out**

## **14. Adjournment (8:15 p.m. – Time Approximate)**

## **ADA NOTICE AND HEARING-IMPAIRED PROVISIONS**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Law, it is Marin Water's policy to offer its public programs, services, and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. If you are an individual with a disability and require a copy of a public hearing notice, an agenda, and/or agenda packet in an appropriate alternative format, or if you require other accommodations, please contact the Board Secretary/ADA Coordinator at 415.945.1448, at least two business days in advance of the meeting. Advance notification will enable Marin Water to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

*Information agendas are available for review at the Civic Center Library, Corte Madera Library, Fairfax Library, Mill Valley Library, Marin Water Administration Building, and [marinwater.org](http://marinwater.org).*

Posted: 08-29-2025



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors

**Title:** Dedication of the Pine Mountain Tanks in Honor of Former Board Member Jack Gibson

**From:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

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**TYPE OF ITEM:** X      Action                      Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a resolution to name the Pine Mountain Tanks in recognition of Jack Gibson for his contributions through many years of dedicated service as a member of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors

**SUMMARY:** Jack Gibson served as a Marin Water Board member from November 1994 through December 2022. In recognition for his services, staff is requesting that the Board of Directors review and approve a resolution to name the Pine Mountain Tanks after Jack Gibson.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Gibson served as Director of Division I for nearly 28 years as part of the Marin Municipal Water District's Board of Directors, representing areas including Sleepy Hollow, Terra Linda, Marinwood, Gallinas Valley, Santa Venetia and beyond. A graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law, he maintained a private legal practice in Marin specializing in business, estate planning, and real estate law, and frequently provided pro bono services to local nonprofits. As a Board member, Mr. Gibson served on the Watershed, Finance, and Communications & Water Efficiency committees. He represented the District in regional partnerships including North Bay Watershed Association, North Bay Water Reuse Authority, Water Advisory Committee to the Sonoma County Water Agency, and One Tam collaborative.

Mr. Gibson brought a long-view perspective to water policy, grounding decisions in the historical evolution of Marin's watershed and infrastructure. As a local historian of Marin County he authored the *Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District* in 2012, which explores the century-long development of the District and its ties to the environmental history of Mt. Tamalpais. In chapter five, *Expanding the Water System*, Mr. Gibson discusses the Pine Mountain Tunnel being built as part of the Alpine Dam Gravity System to convey water from Alpine Lake to the Town of Fairfax. Work started on the Tunnel on December 5, 1916 and the tunnel was completed in 1918. Currently, the District is working to advance the Pine Mountain Tunnel Tanks Replacement Project, a multi-year two-phased project that will replace the existing Pine Mountain Tunnel. The Pine Mountain Tunnel is an 8,700-foot long tunnel designed to convey and treat water from Alpine Lake to San Rafael and the Ross Valley, now known as the Ross Valley System, which serves 44,000 District customers or roughly 23% of the

District’s service area. Due to regulatory constraints, the District abandoned the tunnel as a conveyance system in 1971, but retained the tunnel to provide storage (approximately 3 million gallons) and surge protection. On December 14, 2021, the Board of Directors adopted the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pine Mountain Tunnel Tanks Replacement Project. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2029.


The District is requesting the Board approve a resolution to name the Pine Mountain Tanks in recognition of Jack Gibson for his many years of service as a Marin Water Board member. This project is a major facility upgrade that links the rich history of the District to ongoing water system modernization that is helping to ensure safe and reliable water is provided to the community for future generations.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not Applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 1. Proposed Resolution

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Office of the General Manager	<div>_____</div> <div>Ben Horenstein General Manager</div>	<div></div> <div>Ben Horenstein General Manager</div>

Attachment 1  
MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NAMING THE PINE MOUNT TANKS IN HONOR OF FORMER BOARD MEMBER JACK GIBSON

**WHEREAS**, Jack Gibson served as a member of the Marin Municipal Water District Board of Directors from November 1994 through December 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Board member, Jack Gibson served as Board President in 1996, 2000, 2006, 2011 and 2020. He also served on the Watershed, Finance, and Communications & Water Efficiency committees. He represented the District in regional partnerships including North Bay Watershed Association, North Bay Water Reuse Authority, Water Advisory Committee to the Sonoma County Water Agency, and One Tam collaborative; and

**WHEREAS**, Jack Gibson brought a thoughtful perspective to Board policy discussions, grounding decisions in a long-term view of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, his expansive and unmatched knowledge of the rich history of the District led him to authoring the *Mount Tamalpais and the Marin Municipal Water District* in 2012, which explores the century-long development of the District and its ties to the environmental history of Mt. Tamalpais; and

**WHEREAS**, at the December 14, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, the Board approved the Pine Mountain Tunnel Tank Replacement Project a multi-year two-phased project that will replace the existing Pine Mountain Tunnel, which serves 44,000 District customers or roughly 23% of the District’s service area. The tunnel will be replaced with two pre-stressed concrete tanks, each with a capacity of 2 million gallons. The tanks will enhance the resiliency of the water system, improve water quality and continue reliable water service to the community for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLVES** that:

1. The Board on behalf of the District, its customers and staff, hereby recognizes Jack Gibson for his nearly 28 years of service and tireless work for the betterment of his community.
2. The two 2 million gallon tanks on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed along Concrete Pipe Road currently under construction as part of the Pine Mountain Tunnel Replacement Project should hereafter be known as the Gibson Tanks in recognition of the many years of service and devotion to the District, its history and its lasting legacy.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 2nd day of September, 2025, by the following vote of the Board of Directors.

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

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**Matt Samson**  
**President, Board of Directors**

**ATTEST:**

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**Terrie Gillen**  
**Board Secretary**



# STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** August 19, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes  
**From:** Terrie Gillen, Board Secretary  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

**TYPE OF ITEM:** X Action Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on August 19, 2025

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Directors held their regular bi-monthly meeting on August 19, 2025. The minutes of that meeting are attached for your approval.

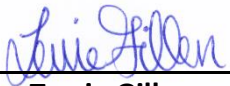
**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Draft August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Communications & Public Affairs Department	 Terrie Gillen Board Secretary	 Ben Horenstein General Manager





## NOTICE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM

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### MINUTES

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#### LOCATIONS:

**Open Session to start at or after 6:30 p.m.**

Marin Water Board Room – 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Closed Session begins at 5:00 p.m.**

Marin Water Mt. Tam Conference Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

#### Public Participation:

The public attended this meeting in-person or remotely using one of the following methods: on a computer or smart device, <https://marinwater.zoom.us/j/88134852296>, or by phone, 1-669-444-9171 using Webinar ID No.: 881 3485 2296.

#### AGENDA ITEMS:

##### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Samson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ranjiv Khush

Diana Maier

Larry Russell (*arrived at 5:05 p.m.*)

Jed Smith

Matt Samson

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

Vice President Smith made the motion to adopt the agenda. Director Khush seconded the motion.

There were no public comments.

Voting Yea: Directors Smith, Khush, Maier, and Samson

Absent: Director Russell

## 3. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s)

There were no comments regarding the Closed Session item.

The Board convened to Closed Session at 5 p.m. and went to the Mt. Tam Conference Room.

### a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

(Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to §54956.9(b))

**Number of Cases:** Unknown

The Board adjourned the closed session and reconvened to open session in the Board Room at 6:30 p.m.

## 4. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out

The Board reconvened to open session at 6:33 p.m. The board president reported that no reportable action was taken.

## 5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

There were two (2) public comments.

## 6. Directors' and General Manager's Announcements

- Director Khush reported that he attended the Redwood Trails Alliance meeting.
- Director Maier recognized a District staffer for his outstanding customer service.
- Vice President Smtih complimented staff for the recent mailer sent to the csustomers, and reported highlights from his attendance at the Sonoma Water Advisory Committee/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting.
- President Samson reported that he attended a meeting with members of the Marin Realtor Group Government Affairs, appreciated the recent prescribed burn at the water and those involved, and apologized to the people in Nicasio regarding the incident with the surveyors.

## 7. Board Committee Reports

Planning Committee Chair Russell and Vice Chair Khush provided highlights from their July 22 meeting, including the vice chair's request for staff to delve deeper into one of the discussion items regarding leak repair enforcement.

## 8. Consent Items

- a. July 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting on July 15, 2025

- b. General Manager's Report July 2025

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Report

- c. General Services Agreements for BFFIP Maintenance and BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support (Contract Number 2050 & Contract Number 2051)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute two General Services Agreements, (CN-2050 and CN-2051) with Forster and Kroeger Inc., the lowest qualified bidder, in the amounts of \$5,101,440 for 'BFFIP Maintenance' and \$2,757,630 for 'BFFIP Forestry and Pile Burn Support', 2025- 2028 (*Resolution No. 8814 and Resolution No. 8815*)

- d. Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Resolution

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve a grant resolution for the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to support the submittal of a grant application for the Lagunitas Creek Enhancement Project Phase 2 and authorize the General Manager to execute a resulting grant agreement and subsequent amendments, if applicable (*Resolution No. 8816*)

- e. Professional Services Agreement for Mt. Tamalpais Bat Monitoring (Miscellaneous Agreement No. 6454)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute Professional Services Agreement MA-6454 with Stillwater Sciences in the amount of \$269,000, with a 10% contingency for a total not to exceed \$295,900, for Mt. Tamalpais Bat Monitoring work related to the E-Bike Pilot

- f. One Tam Extension of Cooperative Agreement and Approval of Watershed Projects

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve an Extension to the Cooperative Agreement for One Tam and Project Statements and Funding for 1) Sky Oaks Watershed Conceptual Plan in the amount of \$200,000 and 2) BFFIP and E-Bike Pilot Early Detection Rapid Response and Rare Plant Monitoring in the amount of \$55,218

- g. Acceptance of Permanent Grant of Easement to Marin Municipal Water District for Existing Water Facilities Off Paradise Drive, Tiburon, APNs: 058-011-13 and 058-031-12

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the acceptance of a permanent grant of easement in favor of the District and authorize the General Manager to accept and execute the easement agreement

- h. Award of Contract No. 2036 Canal Pipeline Replacement Project (GC25005)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve 1) a resolution authorizing award of Contract No. 2036, Canal Pipeline Replacement Project, to Maggiora & Ghilotti, Inc. in the amount of \$2,188,870 and 2) a funding memorandum of understanding (MOU), by motion, in the amount of \$100,000 to the Multicultural Center of Marin to support community outreach efforts related to the Project and authorize the General Manager to negotiate and execute the MOU on behalf of the District (*Resolution No. 8817*)

i. Award of Laboratory Services Contract to Alpha Analytical Laboratories

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Alpha Analytical Laboratories for water quality laboratory services in an amount not to exceed \$319,219 for fiscal year 2026

There were two public comments on the consent items.

Vice President Smith made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Maier seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Directors Russell, Smith, Khush, Maier, and Samson

## 9. Regular Items

a. Water Supply Agreement with Sonoma Water

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the *Amended and Restated Water Supply Agreement by and between The Marin Municipal Water District and Sonoma County Water Agency* for fifteen-year term expiring June 30, 2040

Water Resources Director Paul Sellier presented this item.

Discussion ensued, including the Board congratulating staff and Vice President Smith for the success of its approval by the Sonoma Water Advisory Committee

There were no public comments.

Vice President Smith made the motion to approve the amended and restated water supply agreement. Director Maier seconded the motion.

Voting Yea: Russell, Smith, Khush, Maier, and Samson

b. Water Supply Roadmap Update

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update on the Water Supply Roadmap, including additional cost information on the proposed Nicasio Spillway Modification Project and the work commencing on the proposed Atmospheric River Capture Project

Water Resources Director Sellier also presented this item.

Discussion between the board and staff occurred during and after the presentation.

There were eight (8) public comments.

**10. Future Board and Committee Meetings and Upcoming Agenda Items**

a. Upcoming Meetings

The board secretary announced the following week's committee meetings.

**11. Announcement of Closed Session Item(s); Public Comments on Closed Session Item(s) - None.**

**12. Reconvene to Open Session; Closed Session Report Out - Not applicable.**

**13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly meeting adjourned on August 19, 2025 at 8:46 p.m.

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Board Secretary



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors  
**Title:** Agreement with Synactive Inc. to Convert and Migrate Existing GuiXT Scripts to LiquidUI  
**From:** Bret Uppendahl, Finance Director  
**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager  
**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

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**TYPE OF ITEM:** X      Action                      Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Authorize the General Manager to execute two professional services agreements (MA-6464 and MA-6435) with Synactive Inc. to convert and migrate GuiXT scripts to LiquidUI for a total amount not to exceed \$308,963

**SUMMARY:** Staff presented this item at the August 26, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. The District has used SAP as its Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software since the early 2000's. Staff is actively working to modernize SAP and install the latest cloud-based version of the software. To help streamline workflows and automate transactions within the standard SAP program, the District utilizes an additional software package called GuiXT. In December 2025, the GuiXT product will reach the end of its life and will no longer be supported. In order to continue using the software services, the District must upgrade to the newest version, which is LiquidUI. The District is also moving forward with the implementation of SuccessFactors, which is the HR and Payroll module of SAP. In parallel with the effort to convert existing scripts to LiquidUI, additional work is required to configure LiquidUI workflow processes within the new HR and Payroll module.

**DISCUSSION:** The District's ERP modernization effort began in February 2024 with a business capability modeling assessment conducted by Gartner. To better inform the District's ERP Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements, staff engaged an independent consultant in August 2024 to document the District's "As-Is" and "To-Be" processes and business requirements in HR, Time Tracking, and Payroll functional areas. Phoenix Business Consulting was selected as the System Integrator for the Payroll and HR phase of the ERP Modernization Project in March 2025 through a RFP process.

Since March, Phoenix Business Consulting has been working closely with District staff to configure SuccessFactors, which is the SAP module for Payroll and HR, and to integrate SuccessFactors with the District's existing SAP software. Subsequent phases of the ERP Modernization project will include Customer Service and Billing, Finance, and Asset Management. It is anticipated that the District will

issue a RFP for a systems integrator for the Customer Service and Billing module in late 2025. Finance and Asset Management modules will likely begin in 2026.

This specific effort addresses the need to upgrade GuiXT. The current GuiXT platform will be going end-of-life and end-of-support in December 2025, and therefore it is necessary for the District to migrate to the new LiquidUI solution. There are approximately 3,200 GuiXT scripts that have to be evaluated and migrated to the new platform. While a good portion of these scripts can converted automatically, about one-quarter require manual migration and the expertise of a JavaScript developer well-versed in the LiquidUI framework.

After many discussions and review of a number of technical architecture options, staff is recommending that the District build the new API integration between the current SAP software and SuccessFactors. This approach will be least disruptive to the current practice of recording staff time against work orders while retaining operational efficiency and avoiding re-training. In order to facilitate this API integration, it is necessary for the District to migrate the existing GuiXT scripts to the most current solution LiquidUI.

A summary of the estimated costs for the Synactive Inc. engagement are:

GuiXT to LiquidUI script conversion (MA 6434):	\$206,150
Development of API (MA 6435):	\$74,813
Project Contingency Estimate 10%:	\$28,000
Total Estimated Expenditure:	<u>\$308,963</u>

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** Not applicable.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total estimated cost for the GuiXT to LiquidUI migration, including the integration of time entry within work orders to the SuccessFactors cloud platform, is \$308,963. This amount includes a ten percent cost contingency. Funding for this component of the ERP Modernization Project is currently available in the District’s IT capital budget.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

DEPARTMENT OR DIVISION	DIVISION MANAGER	APPROVED
Finance	 Bret Uppendahl Finance Director	 Ben Horenstein General Manager



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** Board of Directors

**Title:** Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Grant Funding and Prescribed Burn Planning

**From:** Shaun Horne, Director of Watershed Resources

**Through:** Ben Horenstein, General Manager

**Meeting Date:** September 2, 2025

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**TYPE OF ITEM:**                      Action                      X                      Information

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive an update on BFFIP grant funding and the District's prescribed burn planning

**SUMMARY:** In October of 2019, the District adopted the Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP), which describes the actions the District will implement to reduce wildfire hazards and to maintain and enhance ecosystem function. The Board will receive a presentation on the recently completed prescribed burn that was carried out on the watershed in coordination with Marin County Fire (MCF) and on the One Tam Forest Health Strategy Funding strategy.

**DISCUSSION:** California is facing unprecedented wildfire crisis as a result of decades of fire exclusion and increasing impacts associated with climate change. In many California ecosystems, biodiversity, carbon stability and overall ecological resilience are dependent on the regular occurrence of fire. In addition, the wildfire seasons over the past few years have brought record impacts to communities, critical infrastructure and ecosystems. In 2019, Marin Water adopted the BFFIP to guide land management decisions and address wildfire risk while protecting biodiversity on District watershed lands. Additionally, One Tam partner agencies completed the Marin Regional Forest Health Strategy in 2023, which furnishes a science-based framework for identifying how and where agencies can work both independently and together across jurisdictional boundaries to protect forest resiliency while helping to address wildfire hazards. The District has been increasing the pace and scale of forest resiliency work on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed and recently completed a fire pathway analysis to evaluate the efficacy of BFFIP treatments and help refine future treatment area.

A recent study published by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment found that "controlled burns can reduce the severity of subsequent wildfires by an average of 16%". Under the BFFIP, the District is working to conduct vegetation management in areas where future prescribed burns can be implemented periodically to reduce hazardous fuel conditions and to enhance habitat for native flora



and fauna. On July 1, 2025, the District implemented the Knob II prescribed burn with Marin County Fire (MCF). The area was last burned by the District in 2007. To prepare the area for a prescribed burn the District started thinning and pile burn treatment on Knob II in February 2021. This treatment was followed up by a mastication treatment in July of 2021. Since then the District has returned every two years to survey and pull broom. The District worked with a consulting Burn Boss to develop the Burn Plan for Knob II. District staff coordinate annually with Marin County Fire (MCF) to identify seasonal burn windows and sites. Preparation for this burn started on June 26<sup>th</sup> with crews from MCF Tam Crew and Fire Foundry constructing fire lines, removing hazardous vegetation, and doing hose lays around the perimeter.

The Knob II project was adjacent to a portion of Sky Oaks Road and Sunnyside Trail. Crews successfully completely the 40 acres burn on July 1<sup>st</sup> and completed a second 20 acre burn on August 13<sup>th</sup>, both burns achieved all resource objectives including reducing fuel loads from dead and down materials, reducing the grass thatch layer, and reducing encroachment of trees into sensitive grassland meadows. Measures were put into place to protect areas with rare plants, nesting birds, power poles and to establish control lines around the burn unit. Natural resources staff were stationed along the trails to answer visitor questions and keep people out of the burn area. Visitor interpretation signs have been placed around the burn area to help raise community awareness around the work that is being completed under the BFFIP.

This work was partially funded by a Cal Fire Forest Health Grant for the One Tam Regional Forest Health Project – Phase II, from which the District has received \$3,520,000 for BFFIP vegetation management treatments. The One Tam Partnership under the Forest Health Strategy has developed a regional funding proposal for the California Department of Conservation and other state agencies. Staff will provide an overview of the District and One Tam’s funding strategy to support this critical work.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:** The District as the Lead Agency, prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for the Biodiversity, Fire and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) which was adopted in 2019 and covers the Knob II Project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

This schedule lists upcoming board and committee meetings as well as upcoming agenda items for the next month, which may include Board interest in adding future meeting items. The schedule is tentative and subject to change pending final publication and posting of each meeting agenda.

<b>Internal Meetings</b>		
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Key Item(s)</b>
Tuesday, Sep. 16, 2025 5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting with a closed session at the beginning	Strategic Workplan Progress Update
Thursday, Sep. 18, 2025 9:30 a.m.	Watershed Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors	Preliminary Road and Trail Management Plan Workshop
Tuesday, Sep. 23, 2025 9:30 a.m.	Planning Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors	Water Efficiency Annual Update, Public Hearing on Public Health Goals
Thursday, Sep. 25, 2025 9:30 a.m.	Finance & Administration Committee Meeting/Special Meeting of the Board of Directors	

<b>External Meetings</b>	
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
Friday, Sep. 5, 2025 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	North Bay Watershed Association
Wednesday, Sep. 17, 2025 3:00 p.m.	Tomales Bay Foundation
Monday, Sep. 29, 2025 9:30 a.m.	North Bay Water Reuse Authority