



GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

MEETING DATE: July 17, 2025

FROM: Elaine Hogan

Delegate Authority to Executive Director to Execute Contract with The People of
RE: New Directions for Property Management & Outreach Services in Humboldt
County

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

GRTA publicly posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified vendors to provide outreach and enhanced support services to individuals experiencing homelessness along the GRTA right-of-way and regular property monitoring and clean-up to prevent and remediate associated negative impacts to our property. We received one proposal from The People of New Directions, a non-profit organization based in Humboldt County. This item seeks board approval of the procurement process and delegated authority to the Executive Director to execute a professional services agreement with The People of New Directions in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

BACKGROUND:

As GRTA moves toward transition the rail corridor into a non-motorized trail, we seek to restore areas of former industrial railroad use to more natural ecological conditions that enhance wildlife habitat and create opportunities for public recreation. Presently, no undeveloped trail segments are open to the public and no camping or trespassing is permitted on GRTA property, as no suitable facilities exist. However, there are areas of our property being inappropriately utilized and accessed, including for unauthorized camping, which cause significant challenges and impact our ability to meet our goals. Many of the unauthorized camping and other uses of our property stem from systemic issues that our region, state and nation deal with as a result of homelessness and addiction, which impact communities along current and proposed trail segments. We have been actively searching for partnerships with public, private and non-profit entities to improve conditions in our shared public spaces so they can be enjoyed by all. After significant initial work by the Executive Director to determine the scope of available services that existing community organizations and contractors could provide, staff released a Request for Proposals seeking property management-related services with an increased outreach frequency, enhanced support services and regular property monitoring and clean-up. We received one proposal for services in Humboldt County, and staff recommends move forward with a professional services agreement with The People of New Directions.

The People of New Directions is a Humboldt County-based nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) that employs individuals who are currently or formerly unhoused to clean up public and private lands, including former encampment sites. Through a learned-behavior employment readiness program, they offer paid work opportunities to people experiencing homelessness, drawing on their lived experience and skills to support environmental cleanup efforts. With extensive experience serving jurisdictions and private clients

throughout Humboldt County, they bring a trained workforce along with the tools and equipment necessary to address known problem areas on GRTA property. In addition to cleanup services, they will regularly monitor GRTA property to help prevent new encampments and the accumulation of debris.

Prior to releasing the request for proposals, the Executive Director contacted multiple potential service partners, and evaluated the services needed and what entities would be able to provide them under the new direction of GRTA's intended management of unauthorized use of its real property. In order to maximize potential contractors, staff then released the request for proposals, and received on response for each of the two counties within which services would be provided. In light of the prior analysis by the Executive Director, and the submission of a single responsive proposal for each area, a formal Evaluation Committee was not convened pursuant to the adopted policy. Staff recommends the Board find that the selection of The People of New Directions substantially complies with Handbook Section 1206 and waive the requirement of creating a formal Evaluation Committee, in light of the submission of a single appropriate contractor that the Executive Director has determined meets the contracting need. Staff further recommends the Board delegate authority to the Executive Director to execute a contract with The People of New Directors for the services described. The proposed contract was anticipated for this Fiscal Year, and is within the adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve the selection of The People of New Directions as substantially compliant with the policy set forth in Handbook Section 1206, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with The People of New Directions for property management and outreach services along agency right-of-way and associated parcels in Humboldt County as directed by staff, for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, in a form approved by Counsel.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$60,000 from Contract Service Fees line in our FY 2025-26 budget. This amount was anticipated and planned for with the board's adoption of our annual budget.
