



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 25, 2011

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Authorization To Submit A Land And Water Conservation Fund Grant Application For Up To \$300,000 For The Mesa Lane Steps Reconstruction Project

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to submit a grant application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program for the Mesa Lane Steps Reconstruction Project.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

Mesa Lane Steps is one of three public beach access stairways maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department (Department). First constructed in 1982, the stairway is popular with residents of the West Mesa and Alta Mesa neighborhoods, including children, dog walkers, surfers, families, and others. The steps are also well used by other South Coast residents. In addition to general maintenance over the years, in 1991, the foundation of the stairs at the beach was repaired and the foundation footprint expanded. In the 20 years since the last reconstruction, the landing foundation and concrete stairs have degraded significantly due to wear and tear from the beach tidal environment. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Department prioritized repairs of the stairs in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). By Fiscal Year 2011, adequate CIP funding enabled project design and permitting to move forward.

In December 2010, Council approved the coastal engineering study and preliminary design contract with Bengal Engineering. Preliminary design plans were complete in June 2011. The Architectural Board of Review conducted a concept review hearing on June 30, 2011, and the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the project at its regular meeting on July 27, 2011. The Planning Commission approved the Coastal Development Permit for the project on September 8, 2011.

### Project Description

The Mesa Lane Steps Reconstruction Project will remove the last flight of wood stairs and landing, and remove the concrete stairs and concrete block foundation. The existing stairs and support structures will be replaced with new stainless steel stairs and handrails, supported by 12" diameter stainless steel piles in holes drilled into bedrock and grouted in place with concrete. The existing concrete stairs will be replaced with new concrete stairs. The lower part of the stainless steel stairs will be supported by 12" stainless steel piles in holes drilled into bedrock and grouted in place with concrete.

### LWCF Program

The LWCF Program, administered nationally by the National Park Service, provides funds to federal agencies, the 50 states, and 6 territories. The expenditure of funds allocated to California is assigned to the Department of Parks and Recreation. LWCF funds can be used for acquisition or development projects. Development projects include the construction of new and/or renovation of existing facilities for public outdoor recreation.

Due November 1, 2011, the LWCF grant application requires a Council resolution authorizing the grant application and designating the Parks and Recreation Director as the City's agent to conduct all contract negotiations.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Staff proposes to request up to \$300,000 in grant funding through the LWCF Program. These grant funds would cover almost half of the project construction costs. The City Council committed \$200,000 from the General Fund during the Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Program Budget approval hearings. The Department will be seeking additional grant funding from other sources.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

The stairs are designed to meet criteria established by the California Coastal Commission related to projected sea rise and durability. The lowest section is designed to last a minimum of 50 years, withstand a 50-year storm event, and meet expected sea rise over a 50-year period. The total footprint of the stairs on the beach will decrease from an estimated 150 square feet to 50 square feet.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office