



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 11, 2012

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Facilities Planning & Development Division, Airport Department

SUBJECT: Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan Update

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Accept and authorize the Airport Director to execute, on behalf of the City, a grant offer of \$50,000 from State Coastal Conservancy for an update to the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan (Plan) including a sea level rise study;
- B. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Execution of Grant Agreement No. 12-009 with the State Coastal Conservancy and Approving its Terms and Conditions;
- C. Accept a Goleta Valley Land Trust grant offer of \$20,000 to contribute to the preparation of an update to the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan;
- D. Accept \$15,000 from the Goleta West Sanitary District in contribution to the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan;
- E. Transfer \$10,014 from the Airport Operating Fund from unappropriated reserves into the Airport Capital Fund to cover the Airport's portion of the cost to complete the Plan;
- F. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues in the Airport Capital Fund by \$95,014, of which \$50,000 will be funded from the State Coastal Conservancy Grant, \$15,000 from the Goleta West Sanitary District, \$18,620 from the Goleta Valley Land Trust, and \$11,394 from the Airport Operating Fund; and
- G. Approve and authorize the Airport Director to execute a Contract with ESA PWA for preparation of an update to the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$95,014.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

In 1991, the Airport Department facilitated the creation of the Goleta Slough Management Committee (Committee) comprised of government agencies, property owners, and interest groups with the intent of working cooperatively to provide for a healthy Goleta Slough. The Committee was originally formed to provide input through the design, permitting, and construction of the Aviation Facilities Plan. In 1997, the

Committee prepared the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan (Plan) with funding from the City. When the Aviation Facilities Plan was adopted in 2003 it included many of the recommended restoration efforts as mitigation measures. The Airport was able to construct the Airfield Safety Projects and Goleta Slough stakeholders were able to realize over 40 acres of habitat restoration.

The Committee has no regulatory authority and is not an incorporated entity. The Committee exists only as a forum for Goleta Slough stakeholders to work collaboratively.

PLAN UPDATE

It has been fifteen years since the Plan was originally developed. With the completion of major projects such as creek relocation, tidal circulation, and wetland and upland habitat restoration the Plan no longer reflects the character of the Slough. Additionally threats to habitat quality that were not addressed in the Plan such as climate change and increased upstream development present new challenges to the Slough.

The Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan Update will build on the original Plan prepared in 1997. Existing work will be leveraged as much as possible (e.g. the sea level rise impact model, Goleta Slough Existing Conditions Report, Plan Santa Barbara, work currently underway on the City's Climate Adaption Plan, and ongoing research from UCSB and USGS) to keep costs at a minimum.

The Plan update will involve a sea-level rise model, a risk and vulnerability assessment, stakeholder outreach, adaption strategies, and identification of future habitat restoration opportunities. The Plan will produce recommended actions and policies that agencies and property owners in the vicinity of the Slough can adopt to protect and enhance environmental resources. The information in the Plan will be useful in the preparation of the Airport Master Plan Environmental Impact Report.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

In December 2011, the Goleta Slough Management Committee conducted a Request for Qualifications solicitation for planning and environmental consulting services.

Requests for Qualifications were sent to interested firms, and six responses were received and ranked. The three highest-ranking firms were interviewed in March 2012 by a sub-committee of the Goleta Slough Management Committee and the consulting firm ESA PWA was ranked as having the best qualifications for the work involved. The fee was negotiated after the best-qualified consultant was identified.

COASTAL CONSERVANCY GRANT OFFER

In November 2011, the Airport Department submitted a grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy on behalf of the Goleta Slough Management Committee. The Board of the Coastal Conservancy awarded \$50,000 to the City toward

the preparation of a sea-level rise study to be incorporated into the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan Update.

GOLETA VALLEY LAND TRUST GRANT OFFER

Recently, the Goleta Valley Land Trust voted to approve \$20,000 in funding for Plan development. The Land Trust's contributions are specifically for agency and environmental community outreach, biological studies, and habitat restoration site assessment.

OTHER AGENCY PARTICIPATION

The Goleta West Sanitary District has contributed \$15,000 in support of Plan development. The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County contributed staff time toward the development of an Existing Conditions Report and biological monitoring protocols with grant funding support from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) at UC Santa Barbara and the Associated Student's Coastal Fund are also supporting student internships to assist in field data collection in coordination with ESA PWA biologists.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Reflective of the collaborative nature of this Plan update, funding comes from multiple sources.

California Coastal Conservancy:	\$50,000
Goleta Valley Land Trust:	20,000
Goleta West Sanitary District:	15,000
Airport Department:	<u>10,014</u>
Total	<u>\$95,014</u>

Funding for Plan preparation outside of the contract scope has been provided by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (i.e. preparation of an Existing Conditions Report and Monitoring Protocol) and the University of California, Santa Barbara Associated Students' Coastal Fund (i.e. paid internships for field studies). Other agencies (e.g. City of Goleta and County of Santa Barbara) have pledged staff time to contribute to preparation and review of the Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The importance of the Goleta Slough is recognized and reflected in its designation as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat in the City's Local Coastal Plan. Additionally the California Department of Fish and Game has designated parts of the Slough as an Ecological Reserve and State Marine Conservation Area. By establishing a shared Plan for the Slough, the City and the Goleta Slough Management Committee will increase the potential for preservation, restoration, and enhancement of vanishing

coastal wetland habitat. Such efforts will promote the recovery of endangered plant and animal species, improve creek and Ocean water quality, protect infrastructure from environmental threats such as sea-level rise, and ensure that the rich plant and animal diversity of the Slough will continue into the future.

PREPARED BY: Andrew Bermond, AICP, Project Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office