



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 5, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement With Questa Engineering Corporation To Conduct A Feasibility Analysis For The Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Approve a transfer of \$24,870 from the Creeks Operating Fund reserves to the Creeks Capital Fund;
- B. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues in the Creeks Capital Fund for the Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration Project funded from a transfer from the Creeks Operating Fund;
- C. Approve and authorize the General Services Manager to execute a sole source professional services agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$23,370 to conduct a feasibility analysis for the Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration Project; and
- D. Authorize the General Services Manager to approve expenditures of up to \$1,500 to cover any cost increases that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

Project Description

The Mid-Arroyo Burro Restoration Project is a Creeks Division capital project located along the concrete flood control channel between Hope Avenue and Calle Real. The main goals of the Project are to remove the concrete channel and restore the creek to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics. Questa will evaluate the feasibility of removing the existing concrete channel and restoring the creek in a way that meets the projects goals while not increasing flood risk.

Consultant Selection

Staff is recommending a sole source professional services agreement with Questa for a number of reasons. Questa has over 25 years of experience specializing in fish passage and creek restoration projects, is available to complete the project within a timeframe to meet the project needs, and has successfully completed a number of similar creek restoration projects for the City. Most recently, in April 2014, the firm completed a technical feasibility analysis for Las Positas Creek. After a competitive bid process, Questa was selected as the most qualified for that project. In addition, Questa designed a successful Mission Creek restoration project in Oak Park that was constructed in 2010. Staff has determined that Questa's proposed hourly rates and estimated number of hours are within the industry standard and staff expectations for the project.

Timeline

With Council approval of the contract, the feasibility analysis is scheduled for completion by November 2014. Should a feasible project alternative be identified, the Creeks Division will initiate a competitive proposal process for preliminary design plans in 2015.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost to conduct the feasibility analysis is \$23,370. A contingency amount of \$1,500 is also included to fund additional analysis should it be needed. Including contingency funds, the total cost for the Questa contract is \$24,870. Although this project is included in the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program, funding was not proposed until 2018. The Creeks Division is proposing to move this project forward now due to the potential for development to occur adjacent to the restoration site that could influence creek restoration objectives. The Creeks Operating Fund has sufficient reserve funds available to cover all costs associated with the feasibility analysis.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The purpose of this project is to improve water quality and riparian habitat in Arroyo Burro. These efforts will contribute to local, regional, and federal objectives of improving water quality and riparian habitat.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creek Restoration/Clean Water Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office