



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 23, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Final Design Of The Las Positas Creek Restoration Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation, in the amount of \$140,000, to prepare final design plans and construction specifications for the Las Positas Creek Restoration Project; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to approve expenditures of up to \$14,000 for extra services from Questa Engineering Corporation that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Las Positas Creek Restoration Project (Project) is focused on the section of creek located west of Las Positas Road between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road. The Project will improve wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics, and flood control.

Questa Engineering Corporation completed a feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan for the Project in 2014. The concept plan includes removing 30,000 square feet of concrete lining the creek, and installing large sandstone boulders to protect the creek banks from erosion. A key aspect of the plan includes widening the creek and installing additional culverts at the road crossings so flooding is minimized. Native plantings such as willows, sycamores, and oaks will provide shade and better habitat. Native wetland plants will also improve water quality.

The Las Positas corridor provides significant opportunities for alternative transportation improvements, creek restoration, expanded public open space, and recreation. However, there are also many constraints due to existing infrastructure, creek habitat, and steep hillsides. City staff from Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department are working closely to ensure the restoration of Las Positas Creek is coordinated with the

creation of a new multiuse pathway, known as the Las Positas Road Multiuse Path Project. The new pathway will provide a safer route along Las Positas and Modoc Roads for non-motorized users. Questa Engineering's scope of work for the Project includes time to collaborate early in the design process with Public Works staff and the consultant team designing the pathway project. Parks and Recreation and Public Works staff developed a scope of work that will analyze and evaluate various design alternatives as a means of identifying key constraints and the tradeoffs associated with each alternative. Alternatives will examine location and width of path, slope of future creek banks, and flood capacity.

PROJECT OUTREACH

City staff conducted door-to-door outreach in the adjacent neighborhood, hosted a community meeting, and toured the Project site with the Creeks Advisory Committee. Key neighborhood considerations to be further evaluated in the final design include maintaining flood capacity, safety, aesthetics, and public access. Questa Engineering is aware of the residents' concerns and will address them in the final design.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

In October 2013, a request for proposals was distributed to ten engineering and design firms experienced with creek restoration in California. Three consulting firms submitted proposals and the most qualified and experienced firm, Questa Engineering Corporation, was selected to complete the feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan. Questa Engineering has designed over a dozen creek restoration projects throughout California. Projects completed in Santa Barbara include Mission Creek at Tallant Road and concept designs for mid-Arroyo Burro and Barger Canyon. Since they successfully completed the feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan for the Project, it is recommended that they complete the final restoration plans and construction specifications. Negotiations with Questa produced a fair and reasonable price to complete the scope of work.

TIMELINE

With Council approval of the contract, the final design phase will begin in June 2015. Final design products will be delivered in February 2016. The timeline includes public meetings with the Creeks Advisory Committee, the Architectural Board of Review, and focused outreach to the adjacent neighborhood. Additional meetings are anticipated to coordinate the Project with other efforts in the Las Positas Valley, including the Las Positas Road Multiuse Path Project. Construction is anticipated to begin during summer 2016, pending permitting, City Council approval of construction funds, and other project milestones.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost to prepare the final design and construction specifications is \$140,000. This amount includes geotechnical investigations, hydrological modeling, engineering, landscape plans, final design plans and specifications, and assistance with FEMA flood zone remapping. A ten percent change order of \$14,000 is also included to cover any cost increases that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work. With contingency funds the total cost for the Questa Engineering contract is \$154,000. Existing funds in the Creeks Division's Fiscal Year 2015 budget will cover the final design contract amount.

The estimated construction cost for the Project is \$2,800,000. This estimate is preliminary since it is based on conceptual plans.

In January 2015, City staff requested \$1,000,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Water Resources' Urban Streams Restoration Program. In April, the Project was recommended for the full \$1,000,000 funding request. City staff and the California Department of Water Resources are finalizing the grant agreement language and will return to City Council for approval. Additional grant applications will be submitted during the next year.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017 Creeks Division capital budgets include \$300,000 per year for the Project to cover a portion of the anticipated construction costs.

A copy of the contract/agreement is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The purpose of the Project is to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in Las Positas Creek. Over 30,000 square feet of concrete will be removed and recycled, and 7,500 native plants will be installed.

PREPARED BY: George Thomson, Creeks Planner

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office