



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 30, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Purchase Order For The California Conservation Corps To Assist With The Invasive Plant Removal Program In City Creeks

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid process per Municipal Code Section 4.52.070.L, and authorize the City's General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to the California Conservation Corps, in the amount of \$75,000 for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016, for labor to assist with the Invasive Plant Removal Program;
- B. Authorize the City's General Services Manager to renew the Purchase Order with the California Conservation Corps annually through Fiscal Year 2018, subject to Council approval of the annual Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Fund budget; and
- C. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a Co-Sponsorship Agreement with the California Conservation Corps, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney as to form and content.

DISCUSSION:

The Invasive Plant Removal Program (Program) is focused on removing non-native, invasive plants from City creeks to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. The Program is currently targeting giant reed (*Arundo donax*), a large and invasive plant that covers approximately five acres of Arroyo Burro. It is largely concentrated in the lower watershed, below Veronica Springs Road to Cliff Drive. The Creeks Division has partnered with the County Flood Control District and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to remove giant reed from Arroyo Burro and then replant the sites with native trees and shrubs.

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is a state workforce development program that provides young men and women ages 18 to 25 years with job skills training in environmental stewardship, fire protection, energy conservation, and emergency services. It is particularly designed to provide underprivileged youth with job skills for future employment and to educate them about environmental issues facing the State of

California. Since giant reed is very labor intensive to remove, a cost-effective work force that is specifically trained to work in sensitive environments is required for the Program to be effective. City staff has worked with the CCC before, and they are well-suited for the Program.

The remaining giant reed on Arroyo Burro will be removed during the next two years in coordination with private landowners and other Project partners. The CCC will also assist with replanting the affected areas with native trees and shrubs to restore the creek ecosystem. Any irrigation used for the native plantings will be done in compliance with the City's drought regulations in effect at the time of installation.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Funding for the Invasive Plant Removal Program is included in the Creeks Operating Fund Budget for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. Subject to Council approval of the annual Creeks budget, subsequent purchase orders may be issued for the CCC annually through Fiscal Year 2018.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Removing non-native, invasive plants and restoring habitat diversity will benefit wildlife and improve water quality.

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

PREPARED BY: George Thomson, Creeks Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office