



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 29, 2008

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement With Frank F. Kenton To Conduct Shoreline Park Coastal Bluff Geologic Mapping

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Appropriate \$36,446 from General Fund Unappropriated Reserves to the Parks Division Operating Budget for the Shoreline Park Improvement Project; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to enter into a professional services agreement with Frank J. Kenton in the amount of \$36,446 to provide geologic mapping of Shoreline Park.

**DISCUSSION:**

Background

Since its construction in the late 1960s, different areas of the bluff at Shoreline Park have undergone significant erosion. Changes to the park, including relocation of walkways, picnic tables and fencing, have been made each time erosion has made an area of the park unsafe for public use. The most recent landslide, which began on January 25, 2008, resulted in the loss of a portion of the fence, walkway and turf area between the lower restroom, and the steps to the beach. The landslide is approximately 70 feet long and extends 38 feet north from the bluff top. The bluff top is about 95 feet above the beach. Its size and location make the landslide quite visible. To ensure public safety and prohibit access to the area, the Parks and Recreation Department has installed a 6-foot fence around the perimeter of the landslide.

A preliminary geologic report was prepared in early February. The report provided preliminary geologic observations of the landslide and recommended further study to determine its extent. The preliminary report assisted the Department in developing public safety signage and access restrictions. As part of the assessment, department staff and the consulting geologist, Frank Kenton, conducted a visual survey of the entire bluff area from both the beach and the park. The purpose of the visual survey was to assess whether there are other areas of active earth movement. The Department determined that geologic mapping of other areas would be useful in evaluating the

potential for future erosion and important for long-term park management. Two areas in particular, MacGillivray Point and Leadbetter Point, may be subject to significant erosion in the near future.

### Scope of Work

The purpose of the project is to conduct geologic mapping of the Shoreline Park coastal bluff. The mapping project includes three elements. The first is a series of oblique aerial digital photographs of the almost one-mile length of park and bluff slope. The photos will be used to prepare an overview of the bluff geology. The second element is topographic survey of three areas: the landslide area, MacGillivray Point, and Leadbetter Point. The topographic survey will provide the basis for the third element, which is detailed geology mapping of the three areas of particular concern.

The geologic maps will help determine both immediate and long-term management options for Shoreline Park. In the immediate term, the Department would like to know whether the landslide has the potential to extend further into the park. In addition, the project will help determine the options for relocating the permanent bluff fence and walkway away from the landslide area, and whether other bluff fencing needs to be relocated or installed to ensure public safety.

While the mapping project is underway, Parks and Recreation staff and the consulting geologist will also be reviewing readily available geologic maps and reports, drainage plans, and recent records of prior erosion. With Council approval, the project will begin in May. Assuming favorable conditions for aerial photography, it is anticipated that it will be complete by early August 2008.

### Consultant Selection

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the City contract with Frank J. Kenton to conduct the Shoreline Park Coastal Bluff Geologic Mapping Project. Mr. Kenton provided the preliminary assessment of the Shoreline Park landslide. He has served as a consulting geologist for over a decade to Public Works, Community Development, the City Attorney, and Risk Management. He has studied and consulted on the geology of the Santa Barbara area for close to 30 years. His work experience includes being employed at the engineering firm of Leighton & Associates at the time the firm assisted the City in creating the *Conjeo Road Landslide Ordinance*, adopted in 1984. The core of his work for the City has been preparing geologic and geotechnical reports. These reports describe site conditions, underground soils, and unusual features. Report findings are used to determine or evaluate sewer and water main installations, structure failures, and defend against potential litigation such as claims filed by property owners arising from land movement or water main breaks.

### Public Outreach

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to provide the public with information about the City's efforts to evaluate the landslide and identify park improvements. Although it appears that the landslide is now much less active, signage warning of the potential dangers of bluff erosion will remain in place indefinitely. In consultation with the City Attorney's Office and Risk Management, as well as Mr. Kenton, the Department has determined that the Shoreline Steps can be re-opened to the public while the study is underway. Additional signage will remind the public of the risk of coastal bluff erosion and recommend avoidance of the beach area between Leadbetter Point and Shoreline Steps.

### Next Steps

Once the geologic mapping project is complete, the Department will identify park management options for review by the public, Park and Recreation Commission, and City Council. The Department will also develop preliminary cost estimates so that project funding needs and options can be evaluated.

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

The total cost of the mapping project is \$36,446. Funds for this project are available in the General Fund Unappropriated Reserves. It is recommended that Council appropriate \$36,446 from the General Fund Unappropriated Reserves to the Parks Division Operating Budget to implement this project.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

City parks and open space provide economic, recreation, social, and environmental benefits to Santa Barbara residents and visitors. In addition to its value as a neighborhood park, Shoreline Park provides access to the beach and the waterfront area. Completion of the coastal bluff geologic mapping project will inform opportunities to preserve and enhance Shoreline Park.

**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