



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 570.05

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 16, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant For The Laguna Watershed Study And Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Analysis

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council increase appropriations and estimated revenues by \$220,000 in the Creeks Division Capital Fund for the Laguna Water Quality Improvement Project to reflect a recent grant agreement with the Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant Program of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

DISCUSSION:

Background

On May 19, 2007, the City Council approved filing a grant application for Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant Program funds for the Laguna Watershed Study and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Analysis (Watershed Study). The Resolution (No. 07-033) authorized the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a grant agreement for \$220,000 pending the grant award. Due to anticipated delays in grant processing by the SWRCB, on February 5, 2008 Council authorized awarding contracts to Geosyntec Consulting and UCSB so that work could begin on the project. The Parks and Recreation Department signed a grant agreement with the SWRCB on August 25, 2008.

Project Description

The purpose of the Watershed Study is to identify sources of pollution in the Laguna Channel watershed, and implementation projects that will lead to improved water quality at East Beach during dry weather. Flow from the Laguna Channel is known to contribute to high bacterial levels and associated beach warnings at East Beach; however, little is known about sources of contaminated water flowing to the Laguna Channel. The Creeks Division seeks to understand sources of microbial pollution and draw on experience from installation of three other water quality improvement projects in order to select the most beneficial course of action to reduce beach warnings and protect human health at East Beach.

Microbiological and hydrology data collection are currently underway. Once complete, Geosyntec Consulting will prepare a feasibility analysis to identify the most appropriate water quality improvement project(s) for this watershed. The feasibility analysis will include a cost-benefit study that includes consideration of total project cost, lifetime maintenance costs, power consumption, degree of pollutant reduction, and ease of construction. Preliminary design of the identified alternative(s) will also be completed as part of this project. Final design and construction will occur in a second phase, for which additional grant funding will be requested.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the watershed study and feasibility analysis is \$268,400. Grant funds will provide \$220,000. The Creeks Division will provide a match of \$48,400, including staff time to manage the project. The matching funds have been appropriated in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2009 Capital Program budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Improving the quality of water in creeks within Santa Barbara is critical for protection of water quality at the beaches. The goal of the project is to improve water quality at East Beach. During the feasibility analysis, efforts will be made to address the sustainability of identified projects, such as the lifetime power consumption and construction requirements.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office