



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Purchase Order With Ecology Control Industries For Westside/Old Mission Creek Storm Drain Screens

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Find it in the best interest of the City to waive the bidding process as provided in Municipal Code Section 4.52.080(k) and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order to Ecology Control Industries (ECI) in the amount of \$163,546 for Westside/Old Mission Creek Storm Drain Screens; and
- B. Authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order for storm drain screens for four subsequent consecutive years in amounts approved by City Council in the annual budget process.

DISCUSSION:

Gross pollutants such as trash, green waste, human and animal waste, debris, and discarded household items are an ongoing water quality problem in Santa Barbara creeks. Gross pollutants deposited on streets and sidewalks are often washed into storm drains, creeks, and the ocean by storm water and urban runoff. This debris is aesthetically unappealing and can be harmful to human and aquatic health.

The Creeks Division proposes to place screens at each catch basin opening in the Old Mission Creek watershed to keep trash from entering storm drains, Mission Creek, and the ocean. To prevent the risk of flooding, the screens retract during rain events to allow the stormwater to flow through. After the stormwater flow subsides, the screens swing back into place against the catch basin opening. The proposed storm drain screens are designed to require little or no maintenance, and to work in conjunction with the existing street sweeping program.

The Old Mission Creek watershed is comprised of over 650 acres on Santa Barbara's Westside. The 2 drainages that converge to form Old Mission Creek are fed by storm drains containing 120 catch basins. Of these catch basins, 117 are suitable for screen installation. Although creek clean-up crews visit the area twice per week, trash is a common site in Old Mission Creek during the summer – particularly at the Westside drain outfall where much of it accumulates. Most of this trash originates as litter in the streets that is carried into Mission Creek via the storm drain system.

The Summer Urban Runoff Facility (SURF), which operates between April 1st and November 1st, treats runoff water in the Westside storm drain before discharging it to Old Mission Creek. The SURF will benefit from the installation of storm drain screens in the watershed because capturing trash before it enters the storm drain will reduce clogging and the need for debris removal from the underground intake grate during operations.

Background

The 2000 Creek Inventory and Assessment Study identified trash as one of the factors contributing to poor water quality in Santa Barbara creeks. During the 2004 water quality forums hosted by the Creeks Division, trash in the creeks was one of the concerns raised during public comment. Since 2003, the Creeks Division has contracted with a vendor to clean trash from the creeks and beaches each week. In 2008, clean-ups were increased to twice per week. Regular creek clean-ups are supplemented with comprehensive annual clean-ups by Creeks Division staff and community volunteers. Other creek clean-up efforts are hosted by the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, Santa Barbara Channel Keeper, and California Coastal Commission. As a result, over 400,000 pounds of trash and debris have been removed from City creeks since 2003.

Trash surveys have been conducted during annual creek walks since 2000. In anticipation of the installation of catch basin screens, a detailed survey of trash in Lower Mission Creek and Old Mission Creek occurred in 2007. These surveys will provide a baseline for measuring the effectiveness of the new storm drain screens in the Old Mission Creek watershed.

Vendor Selection

A Creeks Division review in 2007 found 4 companies that manufacture and install retractable storm drain screens. Each of the 4 companies was invited to install a test screen on the Westside. With the help of the Engineering and Streets Divisions, Creeks Division staff tested and evaluated the 4 screen designs.

The screen manufactured and installed by ECI was the only product that performed as specified. The screen prevented trash from entering the catch basin, opened during water flow in the gutter, and returned to the closed position when flow subsided. Creeks Division staff also evaluated the screen during street sweeping to ensure that the sweeper would not open the screen as it passed and push trash into the storm drain. The screen did not open, and the sweeper removed all of the trash.

After testing was completed, the Creeks Division requested a quote from ECI for the manufacture and installation of 116 storm drain screens. The quote amount is \$163,546. This quote is within the expected cost range and is virtually equal to the storm drain screen bid that ECI submitted to the City of Los Angeles in 2005.

Because of the quality of construction and the superior performance during the testing period, the Creeks Division recommends issuing a sole source purchase order to ECI for the manufacture and installation of storm drain screens. At its July 16, 2008, meeting, the Creeks Advisory Committee considered and recommended that Council approve the proposed purchase order for the installation of storm drain screens in the Old Mission Creek watershed.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost for manufacture and installation of the Storm Drain Screens is \$163,546. Funds allocated in the Fiscal Year 2009 Creeks Division capital budget are sufficient to cover the cost of the proposed project. Potential grant funding was explored, but no grants were available for this project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Reducing the amount of gross pollutants in the creeks and the ocean is a goal in the City's Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). Reducing these pollutants is critical for both the protection of water quality in the City and for success of the City's SWMP. Storm drain screens have proved effective in reducing gross pollutants in waterways. The storm drain screens manufactured by ECI are made of durable materials and built to last, ensuring that new materials and resources will not be required for replacement for many years.

PREPARED BY: Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Water Quality Manager

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office