



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 19, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement With Geosyntec Consultants To Perform An Ordinance And Policy Audit Related To Storm Water Management Regulations

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with Geosyntec Consultants in the amount of \$40,000 from Measure B funds to conduct an audit of existing ordinances, policies, and design guidelines to identify and describe conflicts with storm water management regulations.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Creeks Division is the administrator of the City's recently approved water quality regulations, which include the 1) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit, 2) City Storm Water Management Program (2009) (SWMP), and 3) City Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMP) Guidance Manual (2008). These new regulations and goals define BMPs and federal, state, and local requirements for the protection of surface water quality and reduction of pollutant discharges within the City.

The City currently adheres to the General Plan, Municipal Code, and numerous policies, design guidelines, conditions of approval, and ordinances; some of which are related to surface water quality protection. The City SWMP requires the development of a storm water ordinance to incorporate the new water quality regulations listed above, and identifies the first step as an audit of existing policies, guidelines, and ordinances.

Project Purpose

The purpose of the ordinance audit is to identify and describe inconsistencies between existing City ordinances, policies, and guidelines and the new water quality regulations. The final product will identify all related ordinances, policies, and guidelines, and describe actual and potential conflicts with the new regulations. This audit is important to ensure that internal inconsistencies and conflicts are addressed in the new storm water ordinance.

Consultant Selection

In March 2009, a request for proposals was distributed to 11 consulting firms. Four firms submitted proposals. The Creeks Division interviewed the two firms that appeared to be qualified, and that proposed budgets within the City's \$40,000 cost estimate. The other two firms proposed budgets significantly higher than the estimated cost.

After careful review, staff recommends Geosyntec Consulting Services. Geosyntec has an office in Santa Barbara that specializes in environmental sciences and has experience reviewing ordinances and guidelines as they pertain to storm water management. Geosyntec produced the City's Storm Water BMP Guidance Manual, which has been praised by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and implemented by many local design firms for City development and redevelopment projects. This experience provided Geosyntec with important working knowledge about the City's SWMP and Guidance Manual, as well as familiarity with many of the City's ordinances, policies, and guidelines.

Timeline

The audit will take approximately four months to complete. The audit will result in a final report to the City that will identify all sections and subsections of the ordinances, policies, and guidelines that are related to the General Permit, SWMP, and/or Guidance Manual, and describe actual and potential conflicts. The report will be completed by the end of August 2009.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost of the project is \$40,000. Funds for this project are budgeted in the Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2009 and 2010 budgets (\$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2009; \$30,000 in Fiscal Year 2010).

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The objective of the ordinance audit is to identify any policy conflicts that may inhibit the City's ability to protect and improve surface water quality. Resolving policy conflicts with storm water management requirements and goals will enable the City to comply with state and federal standards and protect water quality.

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office