



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 15, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Approve Cost Sharing For The Jesusita Fire Flood Protection And Mitigation Projects

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Approve an agreement for cost sharing of the Jesusita Fire Flood Protection and Mitigation Projects between the City of Santa Barbara and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the agreement;
- B. Waive the formal bid process, as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.080 (Emergency Purchases), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Purchase Order to AIS Construction in an amount not to exceed \$315,000 for the construction of debris barriers, and Purchase Orders not to exceed \$115,500 for additional Jesusita Fire mitigation work, including the installation of storm drain riser pipes, k-rail, and sandbags;
- C. Approve an agreement for cost sharing of the Jesusita Fire Flood Protection and Mitigation Project: Aerial Hydromulching between the City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the agreement; and
- D. Approve the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Streets Fund to County Flood Control to support aerial hydromulching.

DISCUSSION:

Background

In May 2009, the Jesusita Fire burned 8,740 acres, and damaged or destroyed 12 City residences. The fire severely impacted the Cieneguitas Creek, Mission Creek, and Arroyo Burro Creek watersheds, all of which flow through the City. The burn area consists of steep terrain with burn severity ratings of high (2,998 acres), moderate (3,802 acres), and low or unburned (1,940 acres). The fire completely burned off all effective ground cover on the majority of the burn area with the exception of some of the riparian areas in the bottom of the larger drainages.

Burn Area Emergency Response

The National Forest Service completed a Burned Area Emergency Response Assessment (BAER) to evaluate the burned area and prescribe treatments to protect the land quickly and effectively. The BAER was generated for implementation on Forest Service land only. It was not funded by the City. However, the BAER also assesses what downstream landowners and agencies can expect. The BAER evaluated the potential to cause damage to people or land due to increased water runoff, flooding, and sediment flow downstream. There is great concern that, due to the bare hillsides, winter rains may cause significant flooding to the urban areas below.

While soil burn severity was largely moderate, watershed response to precipitation events is expected to be high over nearly all of the fire area due to loss of cover on steep slopes. The potential for increased flows leading to flooding and debris flows is high to very high. Runoff and sediment yield is expected to increase substantially in the next three years. Peak runoff flows are expected to be 2.5 to 3.2 times higher than normal. Sediment production could be up to 20 times what is normal in the most severely burned watersheds for the upcoming rain season. Vegetation is expected to re-sprout in the majority of the burned area, with effective cover re-established within three to five years.

City Flood Protection and Mitigation Projects

The Public Works Director declares that the Jesusita Fire Flood Protection and Mitigation Projects covered under the NRCS Agreement for cost sharing requires emergency purchases as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.080. The debris barriers and additional projects are considered exigency projects as defined by NRCS and must be completed by October 10, 2009. Subsequently, typical City purchasing procedures cannot be followed due to the short interval between funding award and the NRCS deadline for construction. An emergency purchase of supplies and services is necessary to complete projects within NRCS deadlines and complete watershed protection projects prior to the upcoming rain season. Additionally, AIS Construction, located in Carpinteria, CA, is the only available company with the knowledge and experience to install the specialized debris barriers.

City Participation with County Aerial Hydromulching

As a separate Jesusita Fire mitigation project, Santa Barbara County Flood Control is coordinating an aerial hydromulching project on non-federal land in the Jesusita Fire burn area. This \$4.6 million project is being funded through the NRCS, California Emergency Management Agency, and with local matching funds.

The project specifications require that the hydromulch be organic and non-toxic, as well as seed and contaminant free. In addition, County Flood Control has provided written confirmation that the hydromulch work will be 100% plastic free. To ensure this, the hydromulch mixing process will be inspected on a full time basis at the Airport. County

Flood Control has invited the Environmental Defense Center and the City to witness the hydromulch mixing operations. County Flood Control plans to complete an assessment study to review the application and its impact on sediment reduction, runoff reduction, and impacts on vegetation recovery.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total estimated construction cost for the work led by Public Works is approximately \$430,500. The total estimated construction cost for the work led by County Flood Control is approximately \$4.6 million. The NRCS will fund 80% of the total construction cost of the projects, with a 20% local share, provided the construction contracts are administered by the City. The State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) will fund 75% of the local share, leaving the remainder of the cost to be supplied from local funds. For the City mitigation projects, this share will be \$21,525 from City funds. For the hydromulch project, this share will be split between the County (\$180,000) and City (\$50,000). Therefore, the total City cost share for these mitigation projects is \$71,525.

The table below is a summary of the cost share for each flood protection and mitigation project by agency:

Project	Cost Share				Total
	NRCS	Cal-EMA	County	City	
City of Santa Barbara Mitigation Projects	\$344,400	\$64,575	\$0	*\$21,525	\$430,500
Hydromulch Project	\$3,680,000	\$690,000	*\$180,000	\$50,000	\$4,600,000
Total	\$4,024,400	\$754,575	\$180,000	\$71,525	\$5,030,500

*Lead Agency

There are sufficient funds in the Streets Fund and Water Fund to cover the City's cost obligations.

PREPARED BY: John Ewasiuk, Principal Civil Engineer/BD/mj

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office