



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 23, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Engineering Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Contract For Design Of The Lower Sycamore Creek Drainage Improvements Project

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a professional services contract with Penfield & Smith (P&S) in the amount of \$234,320 for design services for the Lower Sycamore Creek Drainage Improvements Project (Project), and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$23,430 for extra services of P&S that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a design contract with P&S for final design services for initial Channel Improvements just north of the new Caltrans Sycamore Creek Bridge at Highway 101, in order to increase flood carrying capacity.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Caltrans is currently constructing the Highway 101 Widening Project from Milpas Street to Hot Springs Road, including a new bridge which eventually will approximately triple the flood-carrying capacity of Sycamore Creek under Highway 101. In order to fully utilize the increased capacity, Sycamore Creek must be widened. City staff has been working on a plan to reduce neighborhood flooding like that experienced in 1995 by incrementally widening Sycamore Creek just upstream from Highway 101. This is especially important given the expected and potentially large increase in runoff due to the effects of the Tea Fire in the Sycamore Canyon watershed.

Council authorized a contract with P&S on January 13, 2009, to prepare a study and conceptual design options (Study) for the Project, which is located on Sycamore Creek

between the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge and approximately 100 feet upstream of Indio Muerto Street (see Attachment).

Currently, Sycamore Creek Channel is approximately 27 feet wide at the top of the existing bank. The Study showed the necessity of using the entire 60-foot Soledad Street right of way for widening Sycamore Creek in order to increase its flood carrying capacity.

On October 6, 2009, Council authorized staff to proceed with termination of an encroachment permit between the City and Cypress Tree Apartments (CTA), owner of Green Mobile Home Park (Park), in two phases. Staff has provided CTA written notice of the City's intent to revoke the encroachment permit for the area located 120 feet south of Punta Gorda Street to Highway 101 effective September 1, 2010. The remainder of the encroachment permit will terminate effective September 1, 2011.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is being planned for completion in three phases, starting at the new Highway 101 Bridge and proceeding upstream. The work has been identified in the City's Fiscal Year 2011 Six Year Capital Program Report and is described in more detail below:

### Initial Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements

The first phase consists of widening the portion of Sycamore Creek between the new Highway 101 Bridge and approximately 120 feet south of Punta Gorda Street. Planned work also includes planting native vegetation along the top of creek banks and in available space along the creek. Construction work has been scheduled to start in fall 2010. However, due to the complexities of getting all the appropriate regulatory permits in place, it may actually start in fall 2011.

### Punta Gorda Bridge at Sycamore Creek Replacement

The second phase consists of replacing the Punta Gorda Street Bridge, and construction of the adjacent channel improvements, up to approximately Liberty Street. This bridge restricts the flow of Sycamore Creek during heavy runoff events and will be widened to increase its flood carrying capacity. Planned work includes planting native vegetation in available space along the creek and along the top of creek banks. As part of the initial design process, staff will investigate the feasibility of maintaining the existing Park driveway entrance (from Punta Gorda Street) in the post-construction condition.

### Indio Muerto Bridge at Sycamore Creek Replacement

The third phase consists of replacing the Indio Muerto Street Bridge and construction of the adjacent Channel Improvements from Liberty Street to approximately 100 feet upstream of the Indio Muerto Street Bridge. Similar to the Punta Gorda Bridge, the Indio Muerto Bridge will be widened to increase its flood carrying capacity, as it currently restricts the flow of Sycamore Creek during heavy runoff events. Planned work includes

planting native vegetation along the top of creek banks and in available space along the creek. This phase of the Project will require additional right of way acquisition prior to constructing channel improvements.

## DESIGN PHASE CONSULTANT ENGINEERING SERVICES

In consultation with the Planning Division, it was determined that the most efficient way to proceed is to prepare concept level design documents and studies necessary to complete the environmental review process for the entire project. Therefore, staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with P&S in the amount of \$257,750. P&S work will include the following:

- The necessary studies and environmental documentation to complete the environmental review process. This generally includes a concept hydraulic and grading design, geotechnical work and sedimentation analysis.
- Preparation of final design documents for the Initial Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements.
- Preparation of preliminary design documents for the Punta Gorda Bridge at Sycamore Creek Replacement.

P&S is one of the participants in the City's Three-year Pre-qualified Engineering Services Program and is experienced in this type of work.

## FUNDING

There are sufficient funds in the Streets Capital Fund to cover the Project design costs and construction of the Initial Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements. Staff is working to obtain grant funds for final design and construction of the Punta Gorda Bridge at Sycamore Creek Replacement, and design and construction of the Indio Muerto Bridge at Sycamore Creek Replacement. Construction costs for the Channel Improvements are estimated at \$527,000. Staff will return to Council for construction contract authorization of the Initial Sycamore Creek Channel Improvements.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH

On August 12, 2009, City staff met with Park residents to discuss the Project and the need to terminate the encroachment permit. Park residents and the Board of Directors of CTA were notified of the October 6, 2009 Council meeting, when Council authorized termination of the encroachment permit. Spanish translation was provided at both meetings.

The Public Works Department will work closely with the neighbors of the Project area, including Park residents, during design and construction. This Project will be reviewed by the Creeks Advisory Committee and Planning Commission as part of the environmental review process, and is subject to review by the Architectural Board of Review.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Project Location Map

**PREPARED BY:** Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer/LA/mj

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office



Figure 1. Project Area