



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 530.03

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 14, 2010

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Lower Mission Creek Construction Cost Sharing Agreement With The County Of Santa Barbara

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a Construction Cost Sharing Agreement between the City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District for construction of the Lower Mission Creek (LMC) Project.

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

The Lower Mission Creek Project (Project) has been a long-term joint effort between the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the District, and the City, since the 1960s. The Project will reduce flooding on the lower portions of Mission Creek, and will span approximately 1.3 miles of the Mission Creek channel, from Canon Perdido Street to Cabrillo Boulevard. The area mentioned above has been subject to flooding that affects residents, businesses, and transportation facilities, including the nearby railroad station, resulting in significant damage to property and productivity. Currently, Mission Creek is estimated to withstand an 8-year storm event. After the Project improvements are completed, the channel capacity will be increased to withstand more than a 20-year storm event (3,400 cubic feet per second). In addition to improving water conveyance, the final channel improvements will enhance aquatic habitat, and restore some of the native plant and tree species.

The Corps received California Coastal Commission (CCC) project approval in 2006. Due to the inability of the Corps to obtain funding to begin construction, the City and District acquired a project Coastal Development Permit from the CCC, which now allows the local agencies to move forward with District, City, and grant funded construction.

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In August 2006, Council approved participation in a Memorandum of Understanding with countywide cooperating partners for the preparation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Santa Barbara region. Such a plan is necessary as a pre-condition of receiving grant funds from the State. The City adopted the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP in June 2007. Virtually all public agencies in Santa Barbara County, with water related responsibilities, approved the plan. This plan was approved by the State, and it later established the groundwork for the successful application of the countywide State Proposition 50 (Prop 50) grant application, which awarded \$25 million in the spring of 2008. The City's proposed LMC Project was awarded a \$1 million grant using \$1.3 million of District South Coast Zone flood control assessments as a match. The State has been asked to transfer the grant to the District for construction. Since the State has indicated the grant funds need to be expended by the end of 2011, it is necessary to start construction in the summer of 2011.

The District was successful in getting the Corps to fund the design of the LMC Prop 50 Channel between State Street and Mason Street. This work is being coordinated with the City's Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project, which is planned to build the LMC Channel between Cabrillo Boulevard and State Street. The Corps design is now completed and the District is scheduled to begin building the LMC Channel between State Street and Mason Street in the summer of 2011. At this time the \$2.3 million is expected to be sufficient to build the channel from State Street to the Harbor View Inn pedestrian bridge.

The CCC's approvals for the LMC Channel included a significant number of conditions to protect biological resources, in particular, multi-year monitoring of the Tidewater Goby, an endangered species. The same or similar conditions were also applied to the City's Cabrillo and Mason Street Bridge Replacement Projects, which are using Federal Highway Bridge Program grant funding. The Cabrillo Bridge construction is scheduled to start in the fall of 2011, and Mason Street Bridge is planned for construction in the summer of 2013.

COST SHARING

Since the biological resources multi-year monitoring for the District's Prop 50 Channel construction overlaps with the requirements for the City's bridge construction projects, it is proposed that the City assume the cost responsibility for the District's Prop 50 Channel Tidewater Goby multi-year monitoring.

The District would commit to fulfilling the CCC condition for the LMC Channel to construct a 300-400 foot long by 20-40 foot wide buffer adjacent to the Mission Creek Lagoon between the bridge abutments and the ocean. Since the City's Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project is already required to build a Mission Creek Lagoon "buffer" as part of replacing existing bridge abutment walls protection, it is anticipated the buffer work can be more efficiently constructed by coordinating the work. It is proposed that a separate bid schedule for this added buffer be included in the City's Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project, which the District would fund.

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As part of the proposed cost sharing agreement, the District would fund the construction of the Channel buffer at an estimated cost of \$150,000 to \$180,000. The City would fund the annual cost of the Tidewater Goby monitoring, estimated at approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year for five years.

It is recommended that both the City and District staff and consultants commit to coordinate with each other to meet the CCC biological monitoring and construction requirements as described in the District LMC Channel and City bridge construction projects.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There are sufficient funds budgeted in the Streets Funds to cover the City cost associated with this Cost Sharing Agreement, as part of the Cabrillo Bridge Replacement Project, which is funded with 88.53% grant construction funds, and 11.47% City Streets Funds..

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SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office