



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** September 9, 2014

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Contract With Questa Engineering Corporation To Conduct Technical Studies And Develop Conceptual Design Plans For The Arroyo Burro Restoration At Barger Canyon

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Approve and authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$72,180 to prepare conceptual design plans for the Arroyo Burro Restoration at Barger Canyon; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to approve expenditures of up to \$7,200 to cover any cost increases that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Project Description

The purpose of the restoration project at Barger Canyon is to improve degraded habitat and water quality along 2,100 linear feet of Arroyo Burro. The initial ideas for the site include re-grading the creek to its historic alignment and profile, correcting areas of erosion, removing obsolete in-stream structures, and revegetation with native plants and trees.

Currently, the creek and surrounding riparian areas are degraded due to past agricultural development. Because this section of creek is located in the upper watershed near existing open space and wildlife habitat, there is a unique opportunity to restore the site to pre-development conditions and create high quality native habitat.

The restoration will not only improve wildlife habitat but will improve water quality. Surrounding parcels within the watershed have been developed for agriculture, which can degrade water quality through sediment, nutrient, and pesticide runoff. Restoring the creek

channel and riparian zone will slow runoff, reduce erosion, and increase shade along the creek channel. This will help treat runoff through bio-filtration, decrease the quantity of

polluted runoff in the creek/ocean, recharge the groundwater basins, and reduce evaporation and water temperatures in the creek.

### Consultant Selection

In May 2014, a request for proposals was distributed to 11 engineering and design firms located throughout California. Four consulting firms submitted proposals (NHC Engineering, Inc., Questa Engineering Corporation, Restoration Design Group, and Stillwater Sciences).

After careful review of the proposals, staff recommends Questa Engineering Corporation (Questa), a multi-disciplinary professional services firm located in Irvine, California. Questa has demonstrated experience with the engineering and design of creek restoration projects and has completed a number of successful creek restoration projects for public agencies, including successful work with the City of Santa Barbara, City of Agoura Hills, City of Calabasas, and the Ventura County Parks Department.

### Timeline

It is anticipated the technical studies and concept design plans will take approximately six months to complete. With Council approval of the contract, the project will begin in September 2014 and concept design plans will be delivered by March 2015. Once concept design plans are completed, staff will review plans with stakeholders, resource agencies, and the Creeks Advisory Committee. Input from the various interest groups will be incorporated into the concept design plans prior to initiating environmental analysis and permitting. During calendar year 2015, grant applications will be submitted to obtain additional project funding and project permitting and approvals will be completed. Final design plans and construction bidding will be completed in 2016 with project construction estimated for the summer of 2016.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The cost to prepare conceptual design plans is \$72,180. This amount includes hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, feasibility analysis, and design alternatives analysis. A ten percent contingency amount of \$7,200 is also included to cover any cost increases that may be required for additional modeling or analysis. Including contingency funds, the total cost for the Questa contract is \$79,380. The Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2015 capital budget includes \$250,000 for this project.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

The purpose of this project is to improve water quality and riparian habitat in Arroyo Burro. These efforts will contribute to local, regional, and federal objectives of improving water quality and riparian habitat.

**PREPARED BY:** Cameron Benson, Creek Restoration/Clean Water Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

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