



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 28, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Final Design Of The Arroyo Burro Restoration Project At Barger Canyon

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Questa Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$78,080 to prepare final design plans and construction specifications for the Arroyo Burro Restoration Project at Barger Canyon; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to approve expenditures of up to \$7,800 for extra services from Questa Engineering Corporation that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Arroyo Burro Restoration Project at Barger Canyon (Project) is planned for a 14.19-acre City-owned property, located at the intersection of Foothill Road and Barger Canyon Road. The site is currently degraded but includes environmentally sensitive habitat with approximately 1,800 linear feet of creek frontage and is an important scenic view corridor from Foothill Road up to the Los Padres National Forest. The Project will improve wildlife habitat, water quality, aesthetics, and flood control.

Questa Engineering Corporation completed a feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan for the Project in June 2015. The concept plan includes removing various concrete, wood, and metal structures located within the creek including a bridge culvert. A key aspect of the plan includes widening the creek at the downstream end of the Project site. The Project also includes installing rock weirs to prevent future erosion and constructing a new seasonal wetland outside of the creek channel. Native plantings such as willows, sycamores, and oaks will provide shade and enhanced habitat. Native wetland plants will also improve water quality.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

In October 2013, a request for proposals was distributed to 11 engineering and design firms experienced with creek restoration in California. Four consulting firms submitted proposals and the most qualified and experienced firm, Questa Engineering Corporation, was selected to complete the feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan. Questa Engineering has designed over a dozen creek restoration projects throughout California. Projects completed in Santa Barbara include Mission Creek at Tallant Road and concept designs for mid-Arroyo Burro, Barger Canyon, and Las Positas Creek. Since they successfully completed the feasibility analysis and conceptual restoration plan for the Project, it is recommended that they complete the final restoration plans and construction specifications. Negotiations with Questa produced a fair and reasonable price to complete the scope of work.

TIMELINE

With Council approval of the contract, the final design phase will begin in August 2015. Final design products will be delivered in December 2015. The timeline includes a public meeting with the Creeks Advisory Committee and focused outreach to the adjacent neighborhood. Construction is anticipated to begin during summer 2016, pending permitting, City Council approval of construction funds, and other project milestones.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost to prepare the final design and construction specifications is \$78,080. This amount includes geotechnical investigations, hydrological modeling, engineering, landscape plans, final design plans and specifications, and assistance with FEMA flood zone mapping. A ten percent change order of \$7,800 is also included to cover any cost increases that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work. With contingency funds, the total cost for the Questa Engineering contract is \$85,880. Appropriated funds for the Project are included in the Creeks Division's Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Improvement Program Fund.

Currently, there is \$573,000 in available appropriations for the Project in the Creeks Division's Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Improvement Program. To date, approximately \$41,000 has been spent to develop conceptual design plans and feasibility studies. The estimated construction cost for the Project is \$960,000. This estimate is preliminary since it is based on conceptual plans. The Six-Year Capital Program includes \$250,000 of additional funds for the Project in Fiscal Year 2017. Creeks Division staff will also pursue grant funding for construction of this project.

A copy of the contract is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

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

PREPARED BY: George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office