



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Planning and Building



Date: April 23, 2015

Board Meeting Date: May 19, 2015

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Steve Monowitz, Acting Community Development Director

Subject: Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Surfer's Beach Shoreline Protection and Coastal Recreation Enhancement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing a Cooperative Agreement with the California Department of Transportation for the Surfer's Beach Shoreline Protection and Coastal Recreation Enhancement Project.

BACKGROUND:

In 1961, the Army Corps of Engineers completed the construction of Pillar Point Harbor's Outer Breakwater (Breakwater). The Breakwater has since redirected wave energy south, increasing the rate of coastal erosion at adjacent Surfer's Beach. It has also interfered with the natural sand replenishment process by trapping sediment that flows from nearby waterways in the harbor. The increased rate of erosion and reduction in natural sand replenishment has caused deterioration of Surfer's Beach and erosion of Highway 1's embankment.

Coastal erosion, poor surface water runoff and impacts from coastal access and recreation continue to erode and damage the highway embankment. Since 2002, the County has worked with state agencies, local governments and community stakeholders to address the coastal erosion that threatens Highway 1. In 2013, the San Mateo County Parks Department obtained \$180,000 in Cosco Busan Oil Spill Settlement funds to develop plans for a shoreline protection device to prevent further erosion and enhance coastal access and recreation.

If a shoreline protection device is not constructed at Surfer's Beach, the embankment will continue to erode, putting the highway at risk of collapsing. This would impact public safety, make it difficult for local residents to commute to and from work and school and deter tourists, the driving force of the local economy, from visiting businesses and recreational destinations on the San Mateo County Coastside.

DISCUSSION:

The County and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) are partnering to address the issue of coastal erosion, access and recreation at Surfer's Beach. The County, Caltrans and the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Commission) have developed a Scope of Work and Project Description which provided the basis for a Request for Proposal (RFP). The project scope consisted of the designing and permitting of a shoreline protection device, a new segment of the California Coastal Trail and a staircase to the beach for enhanced coastal access (Project). In September 2014, the County executed a contract with WRECO for technical services to execute the Scope of Work.

The County and Caltrans have submitted an application to the Coastal Commission to amend an existing Caltrans Coastal Development Permit (CDP #3-93-97) to allow for the construction of the Project. The application is expected to be heard by the Coastal Commission at its meeting taking place on June 10-12, 2015.

County staff and Caltrans have negotiated and are recommending a cooperative agreement pursuant to which the two agencies will share the responsibilities and cost of the project. The County has secured \$415,000 to fund County-responsible tasks (specifically, \$180,000 in grant funding from the Cosco Busan Oil Spill Settlement, \$20,000 in local match from the Midcoast Park and Recreation Mitigation Fee fund, \$100,000 from the County General Fund, \$100,000 from the City of Half Moon Bay and \$15,000 in Coastal Commission mitigation fees). The \$100,000 from the County General Fund was appropriated by the Board of Supervisors in the FY14/15 budget. Half Moon Bay provided the County with \$100,000 for use in the planning, design and construction of the project.

Caltrans, in turn, proposes to appropriate \$1,483,500 in funds available for appropriation during the 2014/15 fiscal year, subject to authorization by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) at its meeting on June 24-25, 2015. If the Coastal Commission and the CTC each take action to approve the Project construction is anticipated to begin in early September 2015.

As proposed in the Cooperative Agreement, the County would be responsible for completing the necessary Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED), Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) and Right-of-Way Certification. The County would also be responsible for funding the construction and maintenance of the Coastal Trail. Mitigation for any negative environmental impacts attributed solely to the trail would also be the responsibility of the County.

As proposed in the Cooperative Agreement, Caltrans would be responsible for fulfilling all CEQA and NEPA lead agency responsibilities as well as coordinating, obtaining, implementing, renewing and amending all project permits. Caltrans would also be responsible for advertising, awarding and administering the construction contract for the Project and funding the construction and maintenance of the shoreline protection device and staircase. Mitigation for any negative environmental impacts associated with the aforementioned project components would be the responsibility of Caltrans.

Approval of the agreement contributes to the 2025 Shared Vision outcome of a Collaborative Community as the Project is the result of a collaborative effort of the County, Caltrans, City of Half Moon Bay and Coastal Commission to prevent the failure a regional transportation system critical to the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The County's share of the project is \$315,000 and has been appropriated in the Fiscal Year 14/15 budget. Future costs associated with environmental mitigation have not yet been determined.

