



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: December 10, 2014
Board Meeting Date: January 27, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Agreement with Environmental Science Associates – Alpine Road Trail Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution authorizing an agreement with Environmental Science Associates, to prepare environmental documentation and to provide permitting services related to the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project, for a term of January 27, 2015 through January 27, 2018, for a maximum aggregate amount of \$300,000.

BACKGROUND:

The Alpine Road Trail (Trail) is a multi-use trail that extends from approximately Junipero Serra Boulevard, in the City of Menlo Park (City), to Portola Road, in the Town of Portola Valley (Town). Your Board approved funding for the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project (Project) within the unincorporated County area during the FY 2012-13 Capital Improvement Budget hearing. The Project involves creek bank stabilization work at three locations along Los Trancos Creek (Creek), and rehabilitation of the existing Trail.

On October 23, 2012, your Board adopted Resolution No. 072230, which authorized an Agreement with Environmental Sciences Associates (ESA), along with several other firms, for on-call professional services for the Department of Public Works (Department), in the amount of \$300,000. The on-call services to be provided in accordance with the Agreement consisted of environmental documentation and permitting services including but not limited to hydraulic and hydrologic models, costs analysis and preparation of independent cost estimates, feasibility studies, preparation of project schedules, and reports and regulatory permit preparation and acquisition from regulatory agencies.

At the January 28, 2014 Board of Supervisors' meeting the Department presented proposed creek bank stabilization measures for this Project as represented in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) environmental document. Your Board heard comments regarding the Project from the public and Stanford University (Stanford). The Department was directed by your Board to meet with representatives from Stanford to evaluate alternate biotechnical methods for stabilizing the creek bank along Alpine Road, which could include shifting the Creek away from Alpine Road onto Stanford property, and report back to your Board.

The Department met with Stanford to discuss alternatives and Stanford agreed in principle to allow the County to use their land to access the sites during construction. They did not agree to provide funding for the alternate designs.

The Department reported back to your Board at the March 11, 2014 meeting regarding the discussions with Stanford. At that meeting your Board acted to postpone certifying the IS/MND and directed the Department to collaborate with Stanford to explore alternatives for two creek bank stabilization locations (Sites 2 and 3) that would incorporate more environmentally sensitive solutions, and be acceptable to the regulatory agencies and the public.

On November 18, 2014, your Board adopted Resolution No. 073491, which authorized the Department to proceed with the alternative bank stabilization measures, as well as, revise and recirculate the IS/MND for the Project. The Department presented its collaborative efforts with Stanford to assess the alternative bank stabilization measures at Sites 2 and 3. Hydraulic and feasibility studies were performed and the Department presented recommendations of the preferred alternatives. Site 1 did not receive specific comments, and therefore will remain a keystone wall as originally proposed. The recommendation for Sites 2 and 3 are to install a live log crib wall along with a Soldier Pile wall with concrete lagging, and realign the creek approximately 75 feet away from the Trail, respectively, pending approval from the various regulatory agencies.

DISCUSSION:

Waiving the Request for Proposal (RFP) process will maintain the project's design continuity by executing an Agreement with ESA and leveraging the previous work and familiarity of the Alpine Road Trail Improvement Project to expedite the revision and recirculation of the IS/MND and completion of the permit process. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the County to waive the RFP process and contract with ESA.

The Department recommends that your Board approve the Agreement to enable completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, revision and recirculation of the IS/MND and for ESA to complete the permit process and incorporation of regulatory comments and requirements into the final project design. Construction of the project is expected to take approximately six months and cost approximately \$1.71 million dollars.

Several issues have contributed to the additional consultant costs and time extension. The adopted recommendations for the new Project design will require a revision of the IS/MND to ensure that no new impacts are created that have not been addressed in the document previously. Once these revisions are complete the entire document will need to be recirculated for a 30-day public comment period after which the Department will respond to all comments received. After the public comment period is completed the Department will come back to your Board to certify the IS/MND and complete the CEQA process for the project, at which point, the application for regulatory permits can commence.

The cost to revise the IS/MND and recirculate was not originally anticipated and this accounts for the increased cost and delay in the Project. In addition to the increased costs of the design and permitting, the newly adopted recommendations are much greater in scope than originally planned. The added environmental features including live log crib walls (Crib Wall) and realignment of the creek will add to the construction costs and schedule of the Project. The Department also anticipates additional mitigation requirements due to the large area of impact.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution and Agreement as to form.

Approval of this action will contribute to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by maintaining the existing recreational opportunities for the benefit of the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this Agreement is January 27, 2015 through January 27, 2018. The not to exceed amount for this Agreement is \$300,000 for all specified tasks. Sufficient General Funds are currently budgeted to finance this through June 30, 2015. Additional funding will need to be allocated to the Project as part of the upcoming bi-annual budget process to cover the estimated shortfall of \$1,340,000 for the overall Project.