



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Public Works



Date: February 5, 2015
Board Meeting Date: March 17, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works

Subject: Agreement with BKF Engineers - Alpine Road Trail Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution

- A). Authorizing an agreement with BKF Engineers to provide environmental coordination, prepare plans and specifications, and provide bidding and construction administration support related to the Alpine Road Trail Improvements Project, for the term of March 17, 2015 through March 17, 2018, for a maximum aggregate amount of \$190,000 and
- B). Reaffirming authorization for the Department of Public Works to proceed with the alternative recommendation for bank stabilization measures at Site 3 consisting of a slight shift of the channel alignment of the creek, installation of a Live Log Crib Wall, and installation of a retaining wall.

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 BKF Engineers (BKF), along with several other firms, for on-call professional services for the Department of Public Works (Department) in the amount of \$500,000. The on-call services to be provided in accordance with the Agreement consisted of engineering design, surveying, and construction management services.

At your 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 Site 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 Site 2 and 3 were to install a live log crib wall (crib wall) along with a soldier pile wall with concrete laggings, and realign the Creek approximately 75 feet away from the trail, respectively, pending approval from the various regulatory agencies. The alternative recommendation for Site 3 was to slightly shift the Creek alignment and construct a crib wall in front of a cast-in-place concrete retaining wall.

Department staff met with Stanford and various regulatory agencies (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and National Marine Fisheries Service) in the field on January 15, 2015 to review the proposed alternatives at Site 2 and Site 3. Based on the comments received during the field meeting from the regulatory agencies, the preferred alternatives are: Site 2 - construct a crib wall along with a soldier pile wall with concrete laggings (as proposed); Site 3 - construct a crib wall in front of a retaining wall and shift Creek only as required for construction (alternative recommendation). The regulatory agencies expressed concerns regarding shifting the Creek 75 feet away from Alpine Road at Site 3 based on the more significant impacts of this alternative to the existing conditions. The agencies' preferred alternatives are consistent with the action taken by your Board on November 18, 2014. Department staff has been in contact with the agencies to confirm that their field and office staff are in agreement in terms of the alternatives. Confirmation has

been received from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Department anticipates that confirmation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Army Corps of Engineers is forthcoming. This confirmation is important to receive before additional significant resources are put toward furthering this Project.

DISCUSSION:

Waiving the Request for Proposal (RFP) process will maintain the Project's design continuity by executing an Agreement with BKF and leveraging the previous work and familiarity of the Project to expedite the revisions and redesigns necessary to complete the permitting, design, and bidding of this Project. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the County to waive the RFP process and contract with BKF.

The Department recommends that your Board approve the Agreement to enable completion of the project design including additional topographical survey, hydraulic analysis, final plans, specifications and engineer's estimate, and bidding and construction administration support. Construction of the Project is expected to take approximately six months and cost approximately \$1.71 million dollars.

The Department will continue efforts to get confirmation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding their preferred alternative, but anticipates their response to be in line with the preferred alternative of a slight shift of the channel alignment of the creek, installation of a crib wall, and installation of a retaining wall.

Based on the preferred alternatives, the IS/MND previously prepared must be modified and any new impacts addressed in the revised document. Additional design analysis must be performed for each site based on the comments received from the regulatory agencies during the field meeting. The plans and specifications must be developed to approximately 90% complete to seek the required permits for the Project and complete the CEQA process. Once the permits are obtained, BKF can finalize the plans and specifications and provide support to the Department during the bidding and construction phase of the Project.

The cost to develop additional design concepts and work to support a revised IS/MND was not anticipated in BKF's original scope for this Project. Additionally, the level of effort and analysis for Sites 2 and 3 is greater than originally planned. The additional level of effort has contributed to the cost of the Project.

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

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

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FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of this agreement is March 17, 2015 through March 17, 2018. The not to exceed amount for this agreement is \$190,000 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.