

STAFF REPORT



ITEM NO. 8

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: October 10, 2007

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Public Works Department

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SAN LUIS REY RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT PHASE I, ACCEPTANCE OF \$558,060 IN COLLABORATIVE GRANT FUNDS FROM MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY ENGINEER TO CALL FOR BIDS**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council approve plans and specifications for the San Luis Rey River Trail Project Phase I located on the northeast corner of College Boulevard and the San Luis Rey River, accept \$558,060 in collaborative grant funds from Mission Resource Conservation District, and authorize the City Engineer to call for bids.

BACKGROUND

The San Luis Rey River (SLRR) and its watershed are the largest in San Diego County, support critical habitat for three endangered species, and provide the opportunity for compatible recreation along a scenic Class 1 Bikeway, the San Luis Rey River Trail (SLRRT). The SLRRT borders the southern side of the SLRR beginning at the intersection of Neptune and Cleveland Streets and continues approximately 7 miles east to College Boulevard. A Class 1 Bikeway is defined as off-street facilities with exclusive rights-of-way, designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD) manages the second largest *Arundo* eradication program in the State of California and has recently obtained a California River Parkways Grant through the Proposition 50, Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 administered by the State of California, The Resources Agency. The grant provides for the future 1.7-mile extension of the SLRRT from College Boulevard to Santa Fe Avenue as well as the habitat restoration of 22.5 acres of riparian habitat in the adjacent riverbed.

On October 18, 2006, City Council adopted a resolution approving a collaborative grant effort with MRCD for the extension of the SLRRT, arundo removal and habitat restoration within the adjacent riverbed, as well as an agreement with RRM Design Group

for environmental, final design and engineering services for the SLRRT Extension Project. The City of Oceanside will invoice MRCD as the funds are expended.

On December 6, 2006, and January 18, 2007, community meetings were conducted to present the proposed trail alignment and to solicit input from the adjacent neighborhoods. Initially, staff presented a trail alignment which routed the trail from College Boulevard east along the existing sewer easement to a City-owned access used as storm drain easement at Andrew Jackson Street (Segment 1). From that intersection the trail was proposed as a Class 3 on-street route to another City-owned access on Tyler Street which is used as a sewer easement (Segment 2 Option a). Continuing east on the sewer easement, the trail heads toward Santa Fe Drive using the existing sewer maintenance road (Segment 3). This proposed route was determined to have the least environmental impact on the SLRR by using existing maintenance roads without developing new encroachments into the SLRR Floodplain.

As an outcome from the community meetings, a majority of the neighbors present reached an overall consensus for the development of the SLRRT Extension Project and felt that there was a need for the project. But the consensus for development of the SLRRT came with conditions. Some of the community members present perceived negative impacts to the neighborhood by routing the trail through the neighborhood and requested that staff investigate and develop an alternate alignment which would not go through, nor allow access to or from the adjacent neighborhood.

ANALYSIS

Staff has evaluated the community-requested alignment (Segment 2 Option b) with designers and State and Federal resource agencies. The alignment will include a significant increase in design costs and construction costs, as well as time to obtain the proper State and Federal permits. The requested study and additional evaluation has pushed the grant contract towards expiration. Staff has decided to move forward with Phase I (Segment 1) of the SLRRT Extension Project in order to utilize a portion of the grant funds from MRCD. In order to utilize the grant funds, Phase I must be approved by the City Council prior to October 15, 2007. The project has been determined to be categorically exempt under CEQA.

Phase I of the SLRRT Extension Project is for the repaving of the sewer easement and fence installation from College Boulevard to the first City-owned easement at Andrew Jackson Street (Segment 1). A more detailed project description includes repaving of a 10-foot-wide path, centerline and edge-striping. The project also includes 2,717 lineal feet of black vinyl-coated chain link placed on City property on the residential side of the trail to address safety issues, protect trail users from encroachments and access from the adjacent homes onto City property, as well as preserve views of the SLRR and Morro Hills.

Staff is preparing to move forward with Phase II, which includes additional design and study work for Segment 2, Options a and b, and Segment 3. But, in order to progress with Phase II, any further alignment options using Segment 2 Option b or Segment 3, will require additional design work, technical studies and time sensitive environmental surveys. Segment 2 Option a, is the least involved reach in regards to design, studies and construction by utilizing existing environmental roads (Jackson and Tyler Streets). The Segment 2 Option b route will involve preparation of significant hydrological studies, construction documents, environmental permits and added construction costs. The Segment 3 route along the existing sewer easement will involve moderate environmental studies and permitting, but has partial funding for the preparation of construction documents, environmental studies and construction from Park Fees and the MRCD grant.

Timing for Phase II, Segment 2 Option b and Segment 3, which would include additional design work, technical and environmental studies and the preparation of the CEQA document, could be completed and approved in the summer of 2008. From the approval of Phase II, applications for State and Federal permits could be made, but could take up to a year to review and approve. Funding for the additional construction documents, hydrological studies and construction costs for Segment 2 Option b needs to be identified and secured.

Staff conducted two additional meetings on September 18 and 25, 2007 for the property owners and residents that share a property line with the SLRRT Extension Project Phase I. These meetings were to inform and solicit input regarding fence and neighborhood access to the trail. In addition, members of the Oceanside Bicycle Committee walked the neighborhood to interview residents and collect information on how the residents felt about the trail project, perceived impacts from routing the trail through the neighborhood and if neighborhood access to the trail was desired. From information collected at the community meetings from the residents present, Segment 1, Segment 2 Option b, Segment 3 and no neighborhood access all received support. However, from the overall community input collected at the meetings and from Bicycle Committee interviews, it would appear that a majority of the neighborhood would accept access and routing of the trail through the neighborhood. Staff is recommending that the City proceed with Phase I, Segment 1 and the completion of Segment 2 Option a, and Segment 3 with the commitment to the community that Segment 2 Option b be constructed once funding is identified and permits are obtained.

FISCAL IMPACT

The collaborative grant project will provide a total of \$558,060 with \$254,294 available for the first segment. Other funds have been budgeted in Transnet, Park Fees, and Transportation Development Act Funds for this project, which will be drawn if necessary for the completion of Phase I of the SLRRT. The estimated cost of construction is \$398,000. Therefore, sufficient funds are available for this project.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The City's standard insurance requirements will be met.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

Does not apply.

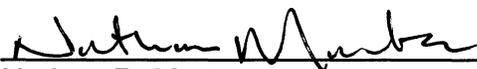
CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

The referenced documents have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION

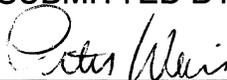
Staff recommends that the City Council approve plans and specifications for the San Luis Rey River Trail Project Phase I located on the northeast corner of College Boulevard and the San Luis Rey River, accept \$558,060 in collaborative grant funds from Mission Resource Conservation District, and authorize the City Engineer to call for bids.

PREPARED BY:



Nathan R. Mertz
Parks Development Coordinator
Management Analyst

SUBMITTED BY:



Peter A. Weiss
City Manager

REVIEWED BY:

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence, Deputy City Manager
Joseph Arranaga, Acting Deputy Public Works Director
Scott O. Smith, City Engineer
Paul Bussey, Interim Financial Services Director



Attachments



Phone (760) 728-1332
Fax (760) 728-8316

Mission Resource Conservation District
990 East Mission Road, Palmdale, California 92028
P.O. Box 1777, Palmdale, California 92088-1777

www.missionrcd.org

September 18, 2007

Peter Weiss, City Manager
City of Oceanside
300 North Coast Highway
Oceanside, CA 92054

Dear Mr. Weiss,

On July 14, 2006, the Resources Agency awarded Mission Resource Conservation District \$1,113,000 in California River Parkways Program funding (Proposition 50) for the San Luis Rey River Trail and Riparian Restoration and Flood Risk Reduction Project. The grant program is intended to protect, improve and restore riparian habitat in watersheds while providing for recreational opportunities.

As a collaborative grant project with the City of Oceanside, Mission Resource Conservation District has committed \$558,060 to the City of Oceanside for the construction of a trail from College Boulevard to North Santa Fe.

The Mission Resource Conservation District is managing the overall grant agreement and responsibilities with the grant administrator, the State Resources Agency. The City of Oceanside shall invoice Mission Resource Conservation District up to \$558,060 for construction of the above project and not more than \$254,294 allocated to the first phase of the project. All funding reimbursement is contingent on the City of Oceanside completing all work on this grant by February 28th, 2010 and submitting all final paperwork by March 15th, 2010.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months to complete this project. Please contact my office should you have any questions concerning this grant collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Mitchell".

Judith Mitchell
District Manager