ITEM NO. 8

STAFF REPORT

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

DATE: October 14, 2009

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Development Services Department

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE OCEANSIDE BOULEVARD – INTERSTATE 5 TO CROUCH STREET LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the plans and specifications for the Oceanside Boulevard – Interstate 5 to Crouch Street Landscape Improvements project, and authorize the City Engineer to call for bids.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, Oceanside Boulevard from Interstate 5 to Crouch Street had been identified as a priority location for gateway enhancements. The envisioned project called for installation of a new landscaped parkway from Interstate 5 to Crouch Street on the south side of Oceanside Boulevard.

On July 18, 2007, the City Council approved spending up to $60,000 for NCTD to install black vinyl fencing instead of galvanized steel mesh along the section of the Sprinter track next to Oceanside Boulevard.

On August 10, 2009, staff held an open house for members of Loma Alta Neighborhood Association (LANA) and Loma Alta Mission Park (LAMP). Members in attendance were given the opportunity to review the plans. Comments and suggestions were received from the community members and were noted and taken into consideration as part of the project. The consensus from the community members present is that there is a need for the project.

ANALYSIS

The project is funded by the Community Facilities Fund. $680,000 was informally allocated for this project from the total of amount available for parkway, median and gateway-related improvements. Staff has reduced the funding required to $530,000 without compromising the project's original vision.

Most of the savings result from specifying smaller trees. For example, replacing 36-inch box specimens with 24-inch box specimens and 24-inch box specimens with 15-gallon. The smaller tree specimens are predominately sycamores and will quickly grow to a larger size. Most of the remaining costs are for sidewalk, which is essential for providing accessible access to and from the bus stops along Oceanside Boulevard, stores, County offices, and the pedestrian bridge to the Crouch Street Sprinter station.

The City of Oceanside is obligated to annually spend $2,932,000 of discretionary funds for road improvements or maintenance as a condition of receiving TransNet funds. Discretionary funds are funds that can be spent either on road-related work or something else. Oceanside primarily meets its maintenance of effort obligation by using General Funds for the street maintenance operations of the Public Works Department, and selected CIP projects such as the subject project. The amount of money staff recommends to spend on this project is a necessary part of meeting of maintenance of effort obligation for this fiscal year. Failure to meet the maintenance of effort threshold would cause SANDAG to reduce Oceanside's TransNet funding by the amount of the shortfall.

The project calls for the installation of a new landscaped parkway from Interstate 5 to Crouch Street on the south side of Oceanside Boulevard. More specifically, the project involves installation of irrigation and the planting of drought-tolerant trees, shrubs and groundcover. In addition, the project includes 10,600 square feet of meandering sidewalk.

The Engineer's Estimate for the construction bid is $460,000. The full $530,000 estimated project cost includes City employee staff time, water capacity fees and other expenses.

Bids are scheduled to be opened in late November 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for Gateway Projects 425619581 has an available balance of $1,380,524 in FY 2008-09 carry forward. The cost of the project is estimated to be $530,000. There are enough funds available to complete the project.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The City's standard insurance requirements will be met.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

The conceptual design for the sidewalk and landscaping was reviewed by the Economic Development Commission on August 11, 2009.

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 the plans and specifications for the Oceanside Boulevard – Interstate 5 to Crouch Street Landscape Improvements project, and authorize the City Engineer to call for bids.

PREPARED BY:

Ed Vasquez
Sr. Engineering Assistant

SUBMITTED BY:

Peter A. Weiss
City Manager

REVIEWED BY:

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence, Deputy City Manager

George Buell, Development Services Director

Scott O. Smith, City Engineer

Teri Ferro, Financial Services Director