



City of Hermosa Beach

Information Item

DATE: February 12, 2019
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Nico De Anda-Scaia, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: Update on Communications with the City Council Subcommittee regarding the Greenbelt Infiltration Project

Introduction

At the October 9, 2018 Hermosa Beach City Council meeting, Council considered alternative locations for the Greenbelt Infiltration Project. Following presentations from staff and consultants, public testimony, and deliberation by the City Council, unanimous direction was provided to:

1. Direct staff and the Redondo Beach Development Subcommittee, consisting of Mayor Armato and Councilmember Fangary, to jointly engage the City of Redondo and/or City of Torrance to discuss potential alternative site locations that include 1) relocating the infiltration project, at its current volume, outside of Hermosa Beach's City boundaries or 2) dividing the infiltration project into multiple smaller projects totaling a similar stormwater capture volume, with an understanding that the division of projects may include one or more smaller scale projects in Hermosa Beach and/or the expansion of the Hermosa Beach Infiltration Trench Project currently in the Enhanced Watershed Management Plan.

On November 6, 2018, the Redondo Beach City Council unanimously elected a Subcommittee comprised of Councilmember Christian Horvath and Councilmember Todd Loewenstein to meet with the City of Hermosa Beach Subcommittee.

Discussion

The Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach Subcommittees, along with Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand, met on December 5, 2018 to discuss the scope of work and current expenditures to date on the project, as well as the additional costs associated with further site assessments and developing an Environmental Impact Report in place of preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Members of both subcommittees also discussed public and private parcels in Redondo Beach as potential alternative locations for the project.



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Following the discussion, Redondo Beach staff contacted SCE again to discuss the feasibility of their site for the infiltration project. SCE notified Redondo Beach staff that they would not allow this project on their parcel. Francisca Street was also discussed as a potential Redondo Beach site, however Redondo Beach staff expressed concern regarding the large number of utilities, potential soil contamination, and disruption to businesses during construction.

On December 20, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Prop 1 Grant Manager contacted City of Hermosa Beach staff to discuss concerns related to the progress of the project and outstanding project deliverables. On December 26, 2018, the Hermosa Beach Public Works Director received a Breach of Agreement notice that detailed deliverables and due dates. Staff immediately notified the City Manager and the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group. The City Manager notified City Council at their January 8, 2019 meeting.

Staff submitted outstanding grant administration deliverables by the required deadlines and the SWRCB is requesting a deviation request form, revised time extension request form, new budget, revised schedule, and updates to all funding application attachments by February 28, 2019. Staff is currently preparing the requested materials to submit by the deadline.

On February 4, 2019, staff met with staff from Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance to discuss how to proceed expeditiously to retain the grant funding and achieve the permit requirements. At this meeting, the Manhattan Beach and Torrance Public Works Directors and Redondo Beach Assistant City Manager expressed that if the original memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project cannot be accomplished in Hermosa Beach, they would like the Hermosa Beach City Council to prepare a letter dissolving the MOU and forfeiting the grant because they are not confident that Hermosa Beach can site a project. This will require an amendment to EWMP and potentially a time scheduled order to meet the deadlines outlined in the permit. They also stated that they would like their funding contributions to be repaid, including those that have already been expended on the project to date. Following this, each City discussed potentially addressing each portion of their run-off individually.

Staff is requesting City Council receive and file this update and discuss this item at an upcoming City Council Meeting.