

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 08/22/2011		Item Number: <u>C-4</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the Final Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Publish a Notice Inviting Bids for the Ballona Creek Stormwater and RainGarden Improvement Project			
Contact Person/Dept.: Lee Torres/PW		Phone Number: 310-253-5623	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☐	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☐ No ☒		Date: _____	
Public Notification: (E-Mail) Agenda and Meetings – City Council (08/17/2011); (Mail) Culver City Unified School District (08/15/11)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (08/15/11)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (08/15/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by K. Marsden) (08/16/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (08/17/11)	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the final plans and specifications and authorize publication of a notice inviting bids for the Ballona Creek Stormwater and Rain Garden Improvement Project, P-497.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2011, the City's Public Works Department Environmental Programs and Operations Division saw an opportunity to incorporate "rain gardens" within the new landscaped slope of the Ballona Creek Bikeway and Landscaping Project. This area is immediately behind the Culver City Unified School District (School District) parking area and playgrounds. "Rain gardens" are designed to intercept the initial storm water run-off that contains pollutants and allow it to percolate through the soil. At the time of this proposed idea, the Ballona Creek Bikeway and Landscaping Improvement Project was nearly complete and could not be altered. Currently some of the storm water run-off will flow into the new landscaped slope and new concrete swales which is then conveyed to the Ballona Creek via storm drains.

On May 23, 2011, the City Council accepted and approved the filing of the Notice of Completion for the Ballona Creek Bikeway and Landscaping Improvement Project, P-497.

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DISCUSSION:

The City was awarded a \$485,000 Environmental Protection Agency federal appropriations grant for catch basin inserts. The catch basin inserts will prevent debris from entering the catch basin during the dry season. Also this appropriation has resulted in making available some of the Proposition 50 grant funds for rain gardens on the recently completed Ballona Creek Bikeway and Landscaping Project

The following improvements are proposed for the project;

- Installation of new curb and gutter along the fence line behind the School District parking area and playground to divert some of the storm water run-off from approximately 2.75 acres of School District property into four (4) catch basins. The storm water will flow into catch basins that will be connected to engineered dispersal chamber systems. The systems are designed to uniformly spread the storm runoff at a reduced velocity onto the existing landscaped slope allowing the water to infiltrate the soil and also, thereby, minimize the risk of soil erosion. The proposed catch basins will include filtration devices which, along with the soil infiltration, will filter the soil of most pollutants before the run-off finds its way into the Ballona Creek.
- Construction of two (2) rain gardens that are 800 square feet and 650 square feet in area, respectively. The construction will involve removing the existing landscaped slope and lowering the existing grade in order to accommodate the proposed rain gardens. The rain gardens will then be re-landscaped with native plants complementing the existing landscaping.

Maintenance

The maintenance of the proposed rain garden will be included with the existing citywide contract for landscape and irrigation maintenance service with Marina Landscape. Staff does not anticipate any additional cost for landscape maintenance above the cost of maintaining the landscaping that is already in place today.

The filtration devices will be maintained through another contract that the City will enter into at a later date.

Culver City Unified School District

Staff met with the Culver City Unified School District to discuss the proposed stormwater and rain garden improvement project. The School District is supportive of the project. However, the School District stated that the existing "Construction Access, Property Use, and Restoration License Agreement" executed on August 18, 2010 between the District and the City would have to be amended to include the proposed improvements. Staff will work with the School District to execute the agreement prior to construction contract award.

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A complete set of plans and specifications is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office or the Public Works Department Engineering Division office in City Hall.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The State Water Resource Control Board approved the award of Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program (Prop 50 Grant) funds to the City. The Prop 50 Grant authorized funding to design and install/construct a series of innovative Storm Water Best Management Practices (BMP's), such as, the construction of rain gardens, full capture catch basin inserts, etc. as specified in the executed grant agreement.

Estimated Project Expenses	
Ballona Creek Stormwater and RainGarden Improvement Project	\$175,000
Construction Inspection Services &Geotechnical Construction Services	\$20,000
Total Estimated Project Expenses	\$195,000

Available Funds	
P-497 Prop 50 (42300497)	\$200,000
Available Funds	\$200,000

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for the Ballona Creek Stormwater and Rain Garden Improvement Project, P-497; and
2. Authorize publication of a notice inviting bids for the Ballona Creek Stormwater and Rain Garden Improvement Project, P-497.