

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: July 27, 2023

From: Public Works Department

Subject: Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project Preliminary Conceptual Design



Recommended Action: Direct staff to prepare a final concept plan, for consideration by the City Council on August 24, 2023, for the Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project (CWEP).

Background: In conjunction with the Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Improvement Project, volunteer community members have joined together to raise private donations for the Capitola Wharf Enhancement Project (CWEP). CWEP is an independent project intended to add new and upgraded amenities to Capitola Wharf to enhance the facility for community use.

In May 2023, the City entered a contract with RRM Design Group to determine and design the scope of CWEP, based on community and City Council feedback. A community meeting was held on June 7, 2023, at New Brighton Middle School. This community meeting was attended by approximately 50 members of the public. The attendees provided valuable insight and input on the project through a small group brainstorming exercise. The feedback from the community meeting was combined with the results of the online CWEP survey to develop the Conceptual Design for this project.

On June 8, 2023, Council approved an agreement with Wharf-to-Wharf Race to administer donations for the CWEP fundraising campaign.

Discussion: The CWEP Preliminary Conceptual Design is included as Attachment 1. Public input suggests a strong preference of the existing Spanish style for overall aesthetic of the Wharf, but also indicates interest in opportunities to add color to wharf enhancements. Components of the preliminary design include:

- Entranceway
 - Paved Entry Transition: Pavers would be used to delineate the entrance to the Wharf with an opportunity for public art in the form of an entranceway inlay.
 - Modified Wharf Arch (Attachment 2): The archway pillars would be reconstructed in the existing style and raised approximately three feet onto a colorfully tiled base (with the opportunity for design by a local artist). The arch itself would be retained, but the attachment to the pillars modified for easier removal and reattachment.
 - Consolidated Signage: The current signage at the head of the Wharf consists of multiple acknowledgements of previous projects and funders. The signage also served as a screen for utilities that service the wharf. The signage would be updated for the current Resiliency Project and consolidated into one cohesive wall.
- Scavenger Hunt: To provide opportunity for youth engagement, the concept plan proposes a series of inlays throughout the Wharf leading to educational signage, public art, etc. Examples of these inlays can be found on Attachment 1.
- Updated Fish Cleaning Station.
- Opportunities for educational signage and public artwork, including artwork for CWEP donor recognition.
- General Amenities
 - Enhanced lighting and benches
 - Shade structures
- Beach Shower: A shower leading from Hoopers ramp to the Wharf is likely outside of the scope of the CWEP, however the desire for this amenity was strongly voiced at the community meeting.

In addition to the components outlined above, staff proposes to expand the scope of the project's conceptual design to include the accessway to the Wharf at the intersection of Wharf Road and Cliff Drive. Improvements to this intersection may include elements, such as replicated archway columns, to reflect the design aesthetic of the overall Wharf and provide wayfinding signage for the public to the head of the Wharf.

This proposed action to direct staff to prepare a final concept plan for the CWEP for consideration by the City Council, is not a "project" under CEQA. CEQA review for the CEWP has not yet been completed. Staff will return to Council with the environmental determinations upon completion.

Fiscal Impact: No fiscal impact is anticipated with this action. The project will come back to the City Council for final conceptual design approval and next steps.

Attachments:

1. Preliminary Conceptual Design
2. Perspective Rendering

Report Prepared By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk; Tamar Burke, Assistant City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager