

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: April 13, 2023

From: Public Works and Community Development Departments

Subject: Grant Application for Cliff Drive Roadway Stabilization Design and Alternatives Analysis

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution authorizing the application for grant funds in the amount of \$400,000 from the California Coastal Commission Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Program, and authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents to apply for the grant, accept the grant, if awarded, and accept all grant renewals, if awarded.

Background: The California Coastal Commission (CCC) Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Program provides up to \$500,000 in non-competitive funding to assist local governments responsible for developing and amending LCPs. Funds may be used for projects that are designed to assist local governments in assessing impacts and planning for coastal resiliency, including adapting to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and which contain an LCP planning component.

Cliff Drive is a heavily used arterial and a primary evacuation route for the low-lying Capitola Village mixed-use district. Cliff Drive is also a primary coastal access point with low-cost coastal public access parking and a stairway to the beach. The City's LCP currently identifies Cliff Drive as a priority for coastal access improvements (Policy II-4) as the pedestrian and bicycle facilities currently consist of an unimproved road shoulder. Improvements to coastal access cannot be made at this time as episodic bluff erosion threatens the roadway, as most recently demonstrated during the January 5, 2023, winter storm which necessitated closure of several parking spots adjacent to the roadway.

Discussion: Staff proposes to apply for the CCC LCP Local Assistance Grant Program in the amount of \$400,000 to perform an Alternatives Analysis, which will inform amendments to the Public Access and Natural Hazards Components of the City's LCP and be integrated into a future anticipated project on Cliff Drive.

The Alternatives Analysis will be a culmination of:

- **Community & Stakeholder Engagement** under a transparent, community-based planning process that allows Capitola community members to provide ideas and comments to inform the development of alternatives for the project.
- **Regulatory Engagement** between City staff and regulatory agencies (inclusive of the CCC), to ensure agencies' needs and concerns are considered in the project alternatives. Anticipated are two meetings with California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff, and one meeting including the following agencies: United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), San Francisco Region Water Quality Board (SFRWQB), CA Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), and California State Lands Commission (CSLC).
- **Technical and Environmental Studies** including Wave Runup, Sand Supply Study, Geotechnical, Topographic, Biological, and Cultural Resource studies and assessments.

The completed Alternatives Analysis will be leveraged in future funding requests to implement measures identified in the Alternatives Analysis. Future requests would include preliminary and final design, project permitting, and construction funds for both preserving road utility and enhancing public coastal access on Cliff Drive.

Fiscal Impact: The requested grant amount is \$400,000. Staff anticipates an in-kind staff time match to this grant of approximately \$48,000 split between the Community Development and Public Works Departments.

Attachments:

1. Grant Application
2. Resolution

Report Prepared By: Katie Herlihy, Community Development Director

Reviewed By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director; Julia Moss, City Clerk; Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager