

# Capitola City Council

## Agenda Report



**Meeting:** September 22, 2022

**From:** City Manager Department

**Subject:** Lifeguard Tower Budget Amendment

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**Recommended Action:** Approve a resolution to amend the budget increasing the budgeted amount of \$45,000 to \$62,000, increase of \$17,000, for the purchase of a new Lifeguard Tower.

**Background:** Since 2012 the City has partnered with the City of Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz) to provide Lifeguard Services at Capitola Beach from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend. As staffing and other logistical challenges have increased over the years, it has become more and more difficult for Santa Cruz to provide these services. In February 2022, Santa Cruz requested an amendment increasing the overall cost for services. The Contract with Santa Cruz ended in September 2022. To ensure the City had a dependable plan for lifeguard tower services moving forward, Council adopted a FY 2022-2023 Budget that includes the development of a Lifeguard Program, including a new Recreation staff position to help form and oversee operation of this program.

In May 2008, California State Parks donated two fiberglass lifeguard towers to the City to replace two wooden lifeguard towers that State Parks had donated in 2002. When the City received this donation, the fiberglass lifeguard towers were estimated to be about 20 years old making them an estimated 35 years old today.

In November 2019, the City purchased 2 lifeguard tower ramps from Industrial Design Research, INC the primary vendor for lifeguard towers internationally, which is used by the majority of Marine Safety Agencies in California. The two new ramps were purchased to replace wooden ramps constructed by Capitola Public Works that were creating work-related hazards for the City's contract services. Additionally, the purchase of the ramps was part of a longer-term plan to spread the cost of tower upgrades over a few years.

In December 2020, the City purchased a used Lifeguard Tower from the Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz maintains lifeguard towers for about 15 years and then plans for their replacement by 20 years. The Lifeguard tower purchased from Santa Cruz is estimated to be about 20 years old today.

With the purchase of a younger tower from Santa Cruz, one of the towers donated in 2008 was officially retired and replaced. This last summer, the tower located closest to Esplanade Park was the newer tower, and the tower located closest to the Wharf was the roughly 35-year-old tower. That tower located near the Wharf is in extremely poor condition.

**Discussion:** Over the years Staff has researched opportunities to acquire used towers, however the effort has been largely fruitless. Generally, if a Marine Safety Agency is retiring a tower, they are not willing to donate or send it to auction because the tower is at the end of its life and could present a liability issue. When Capitola received the tower in 2020 from Santa Cruz, they were comfortable with the arrangement because it would be their Lifeguards using tower, due to our shared service agreement with Santa Cruz.

The FY 22/23 budget included \$45,000 for the purchase of a new Surveyor SR Lifeguard Tower (the same model as Tower 1) to replace the City's 35-year-old tower that is in poor condition. The window cover raising process is not possible for anyone short of stature without climbing onto the railing. There are areas of exposed fiberglass throughout the structure. The door hinges have degraded preventing both doors from full operation and locks have failed allowing for vandalism when not in use. In prior years, Public Works has worked to remedy safety issues; however the degradation has past the point of repair.

In August 2022 Staff reached out to Industrial Design Research, INC, the sole source provider for Lifeguard Towers, to purchase a new Surveyor Lifeguard Tower. Due to a scarcity of the materials used to construct the towers and inflation the cost is higher; the purchase will require an additional \$17,000.

Fiscal Impact: Sufficient funds are available in the Equipment Internal Service Fund (ISF) which currently has an approximate fund balance of \$400,000. The Equipment ISF has an approved budget of \$45,000 for the purchase of the Lifeguard Tower. If approved, staff will increase the budget by \$17,000 for a total of \$62,000. The quote provided by Industrial Design Research, Inc. does not include shipping of the tower which is estimated to be \$4,000. This cost is subject to fluctuating freight rates therefore staff can only provide an estimate at this time. The recommended \$17,000 increase includes the estimated shipping cost.

Attachments:

1. Lifeguard Tower Quote

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Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager