

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: July 28, 2022

From: Public Works Department

Subject: Update on the Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Improvement Project

Recommended Action: Delay bidding the Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Improvement Project to allow compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act in anticipation of receiving Federal project funding.

Background: In May 2021 the City Council approved splitting the Wharf Resiliency and Public Access Improvement Project into two phases to accommodate unresolved permitting and funding issues at that time. Phase 1 included repairs to the steel piles at the head of the wharf and other structural repairs necessary to protect the wharf through the 2021-22 winter. This work was completed in December 2021.

In March of 2022 as part of the mid-year budget review, the City Council allocated an additional \$1.5 million to the project which funded 90% of the remaining project. Public Works has been working with the design consultant to prepare Phase 2 of the project which would construct all enhancements except for new restrooms and floating dock improvements. The restrooms and floating dock improvements would be constructed in a third phase, as funding become available. Staff anticipated that Phase 2 would go to bid this summer with construction over the winter.

Discussion: Since the completion of Phase 1, city staff has applied for a \$3.5 million grant in Federal funding and the City has been notified that the grant has a good chance of being approved.

While this is positive news, and staff believes it is likely the City will receive some, if not all, of the requested amount. The funding will not be finalized until the Federal budget is adopted, which would occur in September at the earliest.

While the addition of federal funding for the project is welcome, it does mean that National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements must be met before proceeding. The California Environmental Protection Act (CEQA) process has already been completed, and while the NEPA requirements are similar, additional noticing and comment periods will be necessary. At this time, staff anticipates that NEPA compliance will take 3-6 months.

Fiscal Impact: The addition of up to \$3.5 million would provide the necessary funding to complete the entire project as part of Phase 2.

Attachments: None

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