

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: October 12, 2023
From: Public Works Department
Subject: Cliff Drive Resiliency Project

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. for professional planning, permitting, and design services for the Cliff Drive Resiliency Project in the amount of \$1,193,700 in substantially similar form, as approved by the City Attorney, as the attached agreement; and adopt a resolution amending the FY 2023-24 Budget to accept and appropriate grant funding from the California Coastal Commission and Federal Highway Administration.

Background: Cliff Drive serves as a heavily utilized arterial road and acts as a primary evacuation route for the low-lying Capitola Village mixed-use district. The road also provides public coastal access to parking areas and a stairway leading to the beach. Unfortunately, during the January 2023 storms, Cliff Drive suffered damage to the adjacent rip rap revetment and localized bluff erosion due to excessive precipitation and strong storm surges.

The City successfully secured Federal Emergency Relief (ER) funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans Local Assistance (Caltrans LA) for professional engineering and environmental services required to repair the damaged bluff along Cliff Drive within the City's right of way. This funding stipulates that the project must be ready to request construction funding by September 2025. Additionally, the City previously received \$450,000 from the California Coastal Commission (CCC) Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Program for performing an alternatives analysis for a future anticipated project on Cliff Drive.

Following the funding notification, staff issued a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit a multidisciplinary team that would assist the City in a two-phased design approach. Phase 1 involves understanding the existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints associated with Cliff Drive. This process will lead to the development of project alternatives, which will be refined through community and stakeholder outreach to determine a preferred alternative for review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Phase 2 will focus on completing the environmental review process and obtaining permits from environmental regulatory agencies and the California Coastal Commission. This phase will culminate in the development of final plans for bidding and construction.

Discussion: The RFP was released in late August; CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. (CSW/ST2) submitted the only response by the September 26, 2023 deadline (Attachment 1). Due to the tight timeline for project development, design, and permitting, CSW/ST2 formed a team of consultants specifically for this project, which otherwise would have been expected to bid independently. Staff recommends, with approval from Caltrans, to sole-source this project and award the contract to CSW/ST2. Staff conducted an interview with the consultant and contacted their references, and they are considered suitable consultants for this project. CSW/ST2 has successfully completed several similar projects along the coastal areas of California.

Caltrans Audits and Investigations (A&I) and Architecture and Engineering (A&E) are currently reviewing staff's recommendation, and the City can proceed with entering into an agreement with CSW/ST2 once the review is complete. Caltrans LA has indicated the City can proceed with conditional approval concurrently with A&I and A&E review. If the City Council approves the contract as recommended, it will be executed following Caltrans LA approval.

Fiscal Impact: The City was awarded Federal ER funding amounting to \$839,408 for professional engineering and environmental services, of which 88.53% (\$743,127) will be reimbursed by

FHWA/Caltrans LA, and 11.47% (\$96,281) will be supported by a City match. The City match must be non-federal funding, which can be covered by the \$450,000 grant from the Coastal Commission, resulting in a total project budget of \$1.2 million.

The current available funding for the capital construction of this project is approximately \$8.4 million, which will also be reimbursed at a rate of 88.53% with federal funding, requiring a City match of approximately \$918,000. The City would apply the remaining \$353,700 of the \$450,000 grant towards the City's match, leaving a remaining amount of \$564,300.

Attachments:

1. Project Proposal CSW/ST2
2. Draft Agreement

Report Prepared By: Jessica Kahn, Public Works Director

Reviewed By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk; Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager