

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: December 16, 2025
To: City Council
From: Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager



Agenda Item: Resolution 2025-047 Approval of Continued Technical Review Assistance for Land Use Permit Applications and Mountain Goat Court Feasibility Evaluation Under CRW Engineering Group Term Contract

BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

The City utilizes CRW Engineering Group, Inc. to provide technical review of Land Use Permit Applications to ensure compliance with Whittier Municipal Code, zoning requirements, and established development standards. CRW has been supporting this function under the City's Term Contract, guided by their May 9, 2025 proposal and Task Order #33 dated June 5, 2025. Over the past six months, CRW has completed five application reviews and associated project support, expending approximately \$18,000 of the original \$25,000 allocation. CRW has proposed continuing this assistance for another six-month period in the amount of \$18,000.

Increasing access to fee-simple lands for residential development is a priority for the City. Opening additional developable areas directly supports long-term community growth, improved housing availability, and alignment with Whittier's land management objectives. Mountain Goat Court represents a potential route to upper parcels that could accommodate future housing. To determine whether this area can be responsibly opened for development, the City requires a feasibility evaluation.

CRW has proposed completing a preliminary feasibility evaluation to assess the viability of extending Mountain Goat Court. The work will include terrain assessment, route identification, development of preliminary design criteria, evaluation of stream crossing requirements, and preparation of a rough order-of-magnitude cost estimate. The proposed fee for this work is \$23,902. The results will determine whether additional engineering or a Design Study Report should be pursued.

This action is consistent with City goals and policies. The evaluation supports comprehensive plan direction to improve housing opportunities and to responsibly expand residential capacity. Continuing technical land use permit reviews ensures consistent application of WMC Title 17 and maintains the City's ability to process applications in compliance with zoning and development standards. The feasibility study represents an informational step aligned with long-term capital

planning by providing baseline data needed to assess whether Mountain Goat Court should become a future CIP project. Financially, the combined \$41,902 appropriation fits within the existing CRW Term Contract and utilizes available professional services funding. Environmentally, the scope is limited to analysis and a site visit, with no disturbance or construction authorized. The work also aligns with community interests by enhancing the City’s capacity to respond to development activity and to evaluate new areas for potential fee-simple residential use.

Together, these elements justify and support the intent of the resolution: to maintain timely technical review capacity for Land Use Permit Applications and to obtain the information necessary to determine whether Mountain Goat Court can support future residential access consistent with the City’s long-term goals.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities: <i>Acquisition of ARRC Non-Operational Lands</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Comprehensive Plan: <i>Supports long-term residential expansion and community growth goals.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Whittier Code: <i>Supports enforcement of WMC Title 17 – Zoning and land development standards.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FISCAL NOTE: A total of **\$41,902** will be appropriated under the City’s existing Term Contract with CRW Engineering Group, Inc. This amount includes \$18,000 for continued technical review of Land Use Permit Applications and \$23,902 for the Mountain Goat Court Feasibility Evaluation. Funding is not currently available, and an amendment to the **2026 fiscal budget** will be required.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes No Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2025-047.