

Agenda Report

October 17, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WILLDAN FOR A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$356,000 TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE HAHAMONGNA MULTI-BENEFIT PROJECT AND FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACQUIRING ALL NECESSARY REGULATORY PERMITS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the authorization to enter into a professional contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Willdan for an amount not to exceed \$356,000, in the preparation of an EIR and for assistance with acquiring all necessary regulatory permits, for the Hahamongna Watershed Park Multi-Benefit Project and the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use Project. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002 (F) for contracts for professional or unique services.

BACKGROUND:

The Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP) Master Plan, one of the City Council adopted Arroyo Seco Plans, outlines a number of projects for the park. The Department of Public Works is ready to implement two large projects from the adopted HWP Master Plan. The first, referred to as the 'Multi-Benefit' project is made-up of three projects identified in the HWP Master Plan (see Exhibit 1). Each project is north of Devil's Gate dam, generally on the westside of the park and immediately adjacent to each other. These three projects are generally described below:

1. Sycamore Grove multi-purpose field: This project will create a new multi-purpose field at an elevation higher than the current elevation, so that the field is above the area of frequent inundation. The project will also include the expansion of the current parking lot from 100 to 200 parking spaces along with

various storm drain improvements. At their meeting on July 12, 2010, the City Council asked for an opportunity to view the scope for work for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that would include the environmental analysis for this field and that is provided in the attached Exhibit 2.

2. Westside Perimeter Trail: This project will improve 1,900 linear feet of trail, from the recently completed Flint Wash Bridge Trail Crossing to the new Sycamore Grove Field. The project will include a combination of historic trail restoration, trail realignment, installation of a 40 foot bridge crossing over Berkshire Creek and raising a portion of the trail above its current elevation so that it is above the level of frequent inundation for hikers and equestrians.
3. Restoration of Berkshire Creek: This project will restore a small canyon and re-establish the stream course that has been severely degraded by the high urban storm water flows through this canyon. The project will improve water quality by eliminating the large volume of trash that empties into this canyon and further into the Hahamongna basin and will also restore habitat. A portion of this project will be completed under the Multi-Benefit project.

The second large project is referred to as the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use project and was recently awarded \$4,341,281 under the Proposition 84 – Implementation Grant for the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Watershed Master Plan (IRWMP). This large project is comprised of two components: 'The Basin Component' and 'The Canyon Component', as illustrated on Exhibit 3. Only the Basin Component will be analyzed under the subject EIR since it is made-up of several projects identified in the HWP Master Plan, including:

- Restoration of Berkshire Creek (for full project completion);
- Creation of eight acres of improved open space/parkland outside of the flood zone for habitat restoration;
- Modifications to Southern California Edison power poles to support the goals of the HWP Master Plan;

The environmental analysis of 'The Canyon Component' of the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use project will be studied separately as it was not a project of the adopted HWP Master Plan. As depicted on Exhibit 3, the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use project is north of Devil's Gate dam, generally on the westside of the park and immediately adjacent to the 'Multi-Benefit' project.

The three projects comprising the Multi-Benefit project as well as the 'Basin Component' of the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use Project are all projects of the adopted Arroyo Seco Master Plans and have been evaluated by the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. These

proposed projects are subject to additional CEQA and a Supplemental EIR for them will be prepared pursuant to Section 15179(b)(2)(A)(2) of the State Guidelines.

Staff requests the City Council approve the contract that will allow the environmental analysis for the 'Multi-Benefit' project as well as the 'Basin Component' of the Hahamongna Basin Multi-Use Project to proceed. Staff anticipates returning to Council in early 2012 once the IRWMP contract with the state granting agency and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Los Angeles County are all finalized.

The Initial Study, to be circulated for public review and comment during the scoping process, will identify potentially significant environmental impacts for further analysis in the project EIR.

The expected timeline for the project EIR is approximately twelve months as indicated in Exhibit 2. The consultant's work is expected to commence in November 2011 and continue into November 2012.

Willdan was selected to conduct this work because they are on the City's list of pre-qualified environmental consultants and also because their past experience includes preparing the environmental documentation for several City projects in the Hahamongna Watershed Park, including the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan Addendum for the Hahamongna Annex.

The total compensation to Willdan under this contract shall not exceed \$356,000 which includes a \$323,158 fee plus a 10% contingency of \$32,842.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This project supports the City Council's Three Year Goals to *Improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure* and *Increase conservation and sustainability*. This project is consistent with and in furtherance of the adopted Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan. Various recommendations of the adopted Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element and Master Plan will also be furthered by this action.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed contract with Willdan, is for consultant services, which is not subject to environmental review.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of this contract will be \$356,000 and the total cost of this action will be \$384,400. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing

budgeted appropriations in the following CIP projects: *Oak Grove Area Improvements* (Budget Account 77506); *Hahamongna Trail Development* (Budget Account 77507); *Hahamongna Habitat Restoration* (Budget Account 77508) and *Berkshire Area Improvements* (Budget Account 77509).

Contract with Willdan	\$323,158
Contingency	\$32,842
Administration	\$30,000
Total Cost of this Action	\$386,000

It is anticipated that approximately 50% of the projects costs associated with the EIR for Multi-Benefit Project will be spent during the current fiscal year. The remainder of the costs will be spent over the next fiscal year. There are no indirect costs such as IT support associated with this action.

Respectfully submitted,



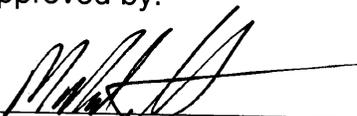
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Prepared by:



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Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

List of Exhibits:

1. Location of Multi-Benefit Project within the adopted HWP Master Plan
2. Willdan Scope of Work
3. Project Location Map