



Agenda Report

October 1, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: REVISION TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT "IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN – HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK – HABITAT RESTORATION" PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not a "project" as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21065 and Section 15378(b)(4) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, and as such, is not subject to environmental review; and
2. Revise the project description of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) "Implement Master Plan – Hahamongna Watershed Park – Habitat Restoration" to reflect recommended changes to the project work location.

BACKGROUND:

Currently there are five Capital Improvement Projects identified for the Oak Grove Area of Hahamongna. These projects include: Oak Grove Area Improvements (77506), Trail Development (77507), Berkshire Creek Area Improvements (77509), Habitat Restoration (77508), and Oak Grove Disc Golf Course Improvements (77516). Collectively, these projects are referred to as the Oak Grove Improvement Project and were considered collectively for the purpose of design and implementation based close physical proximity to each other and common design features.

The project description for the habitat restoration project includes work within project areas described in the Berkshire Creek project and the Trail Development project and in areas now identified for habitat restoration as part of the Los Angeles County Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal project. (Attachment A "Current CIP" and "LA County")

The habitat restoration project is funded by a State Proposition 12 grant. Due to a June 30, 2019 project grant deadline, the habitat restoration project must be implemented by March 31, 2019. In order to comply with that schedule, it is necessary to proceed with the habitat restoration project independent of the Berkshire Creek and Trail Development projects, and in areas outside those project footprints and the County's restoration area. (Attachment A, "Proposed CIP")

Habitat restoration implementation as a part of the Berkshire Creek and Trail Development projects would occur at the end of the construction process and there is not sufficient time in the grant schedule to accommodate this. The Berkshire Creek and Trail Development projects are just entering the design phase. A habitat restoration component will be included in the design for the projects.

The Department of Public Works is proposing a revision to the Habitat Restoration CIP description to reflect this more immediate habitat restoration effort. This project description revision would allow the implementation of the habitat restoration project and the related expenditure of grant funds to proceed. The County's mitigation work removes the ability for the City to perform restoration in that location.

The recommended revision to the adopted habitat restoration project description removes the references to work that would not be performed as a part of this project and to reflect the proposed work locations.

The adopted project description reads:

"This project provides for woodland habitat restoration associated with the improvements to the West Rim Trail and the ramped trails connecting the West Rim Trail to the Basin Perimeter Trail and habitat restoration associated with the Berkshire Creek project."

The proposed project description would read:

"This project provides for riparian and woodland habitat restoration associated with ~~the improvements to west of the~~ West Rim Trail and the ramped trails connecting the West Rim Trail to the Basin Perimeter Trail and ~~habitat restoration associated with adjacent to the~~ Berkshire Creek project."

No other changes to the CIP are proposed.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This project is consistent with the City Council's goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure. It supports the Land Use Elements of the General Plan by enhancing the City's open space area.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

CEQA excludes from environmental analysis those actions that are not "projects" as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. That section excludes from the definition of "project" the creation of government funding mechanisms and fiscal activities which do not yet commit the lead agency to any specific project, and also excludes organizational or administrative governmental activities that do not result in physical changes to the environment. The actions proposed herein are part of the City's normal administrative process as it takes early steps to prepare for the possibility of undertaking a project, and therefore they are not yet "projects" as defined by CEQA. As the City becomes more certain it will undertake one of the projects, and before it commits itself to the project, the appropriate environmental analysis will be conducted and brought to the appropriate City body for approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

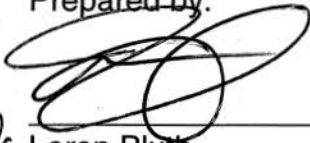
The approval of the proposed project description revision would clarify the work location of an existing project. No appropriation is recommended at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



ARA MALOYAN, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



for
Loren Pluth
Senior Project Manager

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager