



CITY OF SALINAS COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2019

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FROM: DAVID JACOBS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

BY: BRIAN FRUS, SENIOR ENGINEER

TITLE: SALINAS STREAM MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution to:

1. Accept the proposal from Harris and Associates for conceptual planning, permitting and preparation of grant submittals for the Salinas stream maintenance and enhancement efforts and add the proposed scope of work to the Master Services Agreement with Harris & Associates in the amount of \$260,314.
2. Approve an amendment to Harris and Associates' On-Call Consultant Master Service Agreement dated October 11, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the resolution approving the proposal from Harris & Associates and approve Amendment No. 2 for the On-Call Consultant Master Service Agreement between City of Salinas and Harris & Associates adding EcoSystems West Consulting Group, Albion Environmental, Inc., and Weber Hayes & Associates, Inc. as their subconsultants.

BACKGROUND:

The 2017 winter storms caused heavy erosion and large amounts of silts to be deposited at Gabilan Creek, Natividad Creek, Santa Rita Creek, the Natividad Creek Detention Basin and the Salinas River Outfall. In the process of making emergency repairs as a result of the storm damage, staff discovered that permits required for repair or maintenance work within these locations have expired.

The City applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for relief funding to cover the damages. To

date, neither agency has confirmed reimbursement for the majority of the repairs, which are estimated at over \$2 million.

The primary purpose of these essential drainage facilities is to convey flood water in order to protect property, human health and safety; however, opportunities exist which could improve the City's competitiveness for grant funding, not only to make repairs, but also to enhance the ecological health of the creeks' riparian zones.

Adding an ecological element to any restoration project would not only improve habitat along the drainage facility but also could have added benefits such as increasing flood water capacity, water quality, infiltration and percolation, cost effectiveness of maintenance, climate resiliency and recreational opportunities. Both the Gabilan and Natividad Creeks offer a chance to create a nexus for these benefits.

Grant applications often favor projects with multiple benefits. Staff believes there is a strong likelihood that funding could be obtained with the right combination of elements that improve floodwater conveyance, water quality, infiltration and percolation, climate resiliency and ecological enhancements. While a single grant may not offer funding for all desired elements, successive implementation of improvements makes the City better positioned to receive future grant funding.

The level of permitting for work in a riparian corridor is formidable and involves a number of agencies. Due to this required level of permitting effort, it is recommended that the scope be expanded to include a larger more comprehensive project as it would provide the greatest benefit to the City, while also providing the required long-term maintenance permit for these facilities. Coupled with the above environmental components, the overall permit application(s) may be also be looked upon more favorably by the regulatory agencies.

On October 11th, 2017, the City Council approved the Civil Engineering On-Call Consultant List and Master Service Agreement. Public Works staff selected Harris & Associates from the consultant list as the most qualified on-call civil engineering consultant to provide the necessary services based on the above concepts, that could accomplish the following:

Phase 1 & 2

- 1) Develop a comprehensive maintenance plan
- 2) Initiate the permitting process for ongoing maintenance activities
- 3) Create a plan that identifies ecological enhancement opportunities
- 4) Draft a conceptual plan that improves flood capacity, water quality, habitat and infiltration of surface flows
- 5) Assemble a detailed plan description to apply for grant funding
- 6) Research and apply for prospective grants.

Phase 3, 4 & 5 as needed

The availability and source(s) of grant funding could ultimately shape the overall project concept. Should grant funding become available, the scope would include:

- 7) Preparing technical summary reports
- 8) CEQA compliance
- 9) Regulatory compliance and permitting
- 10) Developing detailed plans and specifications
- 11) Project implementation.

Public Works staff has reviewed the proposal and requested Amendment No. 2 and found the included scope of work to be complete and the included cost breakdown and fee schedules to be reasonable and in line with industry standards for this type of professional level work.

In order to execute the Salinas stream maintenance and enhancement effort, Harris & Associates requires the services of three new subconsultants, EcoSystems West Consulting Group (Biological services), Albion Environmental, Inc. (Cultural/archaeological resources services and Native American consultation), and Weber Hayes & Associates, Inc. (hydrogeologic and environmental engineering, hazardous materials assessments and clean up). These specialized consulting firms are currently not listed as subconsultants under Harris & Associate's Master Service Agreement. Therefore, Council's approval to the attached amendment to the existing agreement is required.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This item relates to the Strategic Plan goals of a "Healthy, Vibrant Sustainable and Green Community" and a "Well Planned City and Excellent Infrastructure".

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION:

Public Works will advance this project through coordination with Engineering and Maintenance Services with additional input from the Department of Library and Community Services given the potential nexus of grant funding and that two of the streams are located within City parks.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

This effort will draw from the CIP projects listed in the table below. Available budgets include carry over and allocations for Fiscal Year 2019-20 and are as follows:

Description and CIP Number	Available Budget
Natividad Creek Detention Basin - 9027	\$53,638
Silt Removal Gabilan Creek - 9127	\$75,240
Natividad Creek Silt Removal - 9086	\$75,000
Santa Rita Storm Channel - 9175	\$50,000
Salinas River Outfall Repairs - 9114 (Outside services only)	\$50,000
Totals	\$303,878

The estimated total cost for the initial Salinas stream maintenance and restoration efforts outlined above and referenced as Phases 1 and 2 in the Harris and Associates proposal including a 15% contingency is \$260,314. Sufficient funds are budgeted to complete the proposed work.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
Harris and Associates Proposal
Amendment No. 2 to Master Service Agreement