



Utility Services/Land Use/ Energy Development Committee

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: UTILITY SERVICES / LAND USE / ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS **DATE: MARCH 13, 2017**

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLANT FLOOD CONTROL LEVEE REHABILITATION PROJECT - DIRECT SUBMITTAL

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Flood Control Levee Rehabilitation Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Utility Services/Land Use/ Energy Development Committee receive an update on the Regional Water Quality Control Plant Flood Control Levee Rehabilitation Project.

BACKGROUND:

The City owns, operates and maintains the Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP) located in the northwest section of Riverside on Van Buren Boulevard adjacent to the Santa Ana River (Exhibit A). The facility provides wastewater treatment for the City of Riverside, the community of Highgrove, and the Community Service Districts of Jurupa, Rubidoux, and Edgemont. Flood protection is extremely important so that in times of storm events, when the Santa Ana River level rises, the RWQCP can continue operation for the protection of public health and environmental safety.

In 1942, the City began operation of the treatment plant with very little flood protection along the southern bank of the Santa Ana River. Then between 1965 and 1970, flood protection was provided through construction of an earthen dike and a partial levee. From the late 1970's to the early 1980's, a flood control levee was constructed which was designed to protect the RWQCP against a 100-year storm event (Exhibit A). In addition, the top of the levee was modified to include the Santa Ana River recreational trail.

As a result of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) modified flood control levee requirements to protect against major storm events. The modified levee requirements were subsequently included in the RWQCP permit to operate issued by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

In 2011, the Public Works Department hired Webb and Associates to complete analysis of the flood control levee to determine if the levee meets the updated FEMA requirements. The analysis determined that the levee is deficient and about half of it (2,400 linear feet), needs to be raised. The Public Works Department included a CIP project in the fiscal year 2014/15 adopted budget to fund the planning, design and construction of the flood control level improvements.

DISCUSSION:

In January of 2014, the Public Works Department retained Tetra Tech, Inc., to assist with the project environmental review, permitting, design, and bid specifications. The recommended levee design that provides the maximum benefit consists of raising the levee from 0 to 6 feet in vertical height and constructing a four foot high reinforced concrete floodwall along 2,050 linear feet of the levee (Exhibit B).

Additional project benefits include: 1) new asphalt paving for the Santa Ana River recreation trail, 2) a new wrought iron security fence similar to the existing perimeter fencing along Van Buren Boulevard, and 3) improved perimeter security lighting.

City Council consideration and approval of the project construction bid award and environmental document is currently anticipated for June 2017. This will allow construction to occur from July 2017 and end in October 2017, to avoid the bird nesting season and also complete levee work before the winter storm season.

Project Details

Project Permitting

Staff is actively obtaining three permits necessary for the project. All three are required before construction can begin; 1) City of Riverside Construction Permit, 2) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and 3) Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board State General Permit for Construction Activity. The first permit noted is in the application process and the latter two are in the application submittal and review stage. It has been determined that an Army Corps of Engineers permit is not required.

Environmental Review

As part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) an Environmental Initial Study (EIS) is being prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc., on behalf of the City. Based on the review to date, it is anticipated that a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be sent to the State Clearing House. The City will implement the mitigation measures identified in the EIS to reduce all potential significant project related impacts to a less than significant level.

Santa Ana River Recreational Trail and Public Outreach

There is a recreational trail that runs the full length of the levee that accommodates cyclist and pedestrian traffic. During construction, a detour will route traffic from Van Buren Boulevard to Jurupa Avenue and down to the Martha McLean Park for entry back to the trail (Exhibit C).

Once construction is completed traffic on the normal route will resume on the Santa Ana River Recreation trail.

Staff is planning two project informational meetings to inform the public. The first is the Bicycle Advisory Committee at their February 13, 2017 meeting. The second is the Transportation Board at their March 1, 2017 meeting.

Construction Cost Estimate

To reduce construction cost, the fill material needed to raise the levee will be used from excess dirt from the RWQCP Phase I Rehabilitation and Expansion Project. The engineers construction cost estimate is \$2,861,000. Project funding is budgeted in the RWQCP Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2016/2017 fiscal budget year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. Construction costs are estimated to be \$2,861,000. Sufficient funds are available in the Public Works Department WQCP Levee Upgrade Account No. 9858823-440301 and have been budgeted in the RWQCP CIP fiscal 2016/2017 budget year.

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Certified as to
availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Project location and existing site condition
2. Flood control levee design plan
3. Santa Ana River Recreational Trail construction detour
4. Presentation