

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY

AGENDA REPORT

For meeting of: **April 21, 2020**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

VIA: Bob Nisbet, City Manager

FROM: John Doughty, Public Works Director
Maz Bozorginia, City Engineer

TITLE: **POPLAR BEACH VERTICAL ACCESS (CIP PROJECT NO. 597)**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with the construction of the planned Poplar Beach Vertical Access Project (CIP No. 597), award a contract to Cazadoro Construction, Inc., of San Francisco, California, in the amount of \$157,000 for the project, and authorize a transfer of \$30,000 from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP No. 615).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Fiscal Year 2019-20 Capital Budget includes \$130,000 toward construction of the access improvements. An additional \$30,000 is required in order to move forward with construction as detailed in this report. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation Program has sufficient funds to cover this request.

STRATEGIC ELEMENT:

This recommendation supports the Infrastructure and Environment and Public Safety Elements of the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND:

On May 16, 2016, the City Council directed the City Manager to execute an agreement with Nichols Consulting Engineers (NCE) to assess ongoing erosion along the California Coastal Trail (Coastal Trail) from Kelly Avenue to the Poplar Beach parking lot. The purpose of the study was to proactively assess the effect of erosion from sea level rise on the Coastal Trail and to provide alternative alignments to retreat the Coastal Trail away from the eroding bluffs.

NCE presented their findings to the City Council on March 7, 2017. Specifically, NCE's investigations indicated heavy and unmanaged public use of the blufftops was, at certain

identified locations, causing localized erosion to move inland at rates 2 to 2.5 times faster than the erosion caused by sea level rise.

On May 16, 2017, the City Council approved a phased approach to implementing Poplar Beach improvements. This included retaining the Coastal Trail in its current alignment for five years through focused erosion stabilization, creating a master plan for the “Poplar Beach Gateway” area, and initiating work on permanent vertical access at Poplar Beach.

In December 2018, following seasonal rains, the condition of the Poplar Beach Vertical Access was beginning to deteriorate due to failure of a storm water drainage outfall located at the top of the sloped access point. There was a concern of losing the only pedestrian access to the beach in the area and near the Poplar Beach Parking Lot.

On December 21, 2018, an emergency coastal development permit (ECDP) was issued for storm water improvements. Prior to issuance, Coastal Commission staff were advised of the proposed action. A notice of the action was also submitted to the Coastal Commission.

The City contracted with Half Moon Bay Grading & Paving for the emergency repair on a time and materials basis not to exceed \$40,000. The work commenced on January 21, 2019 and was completed on January 31, 2019. Although the improvements addressed immediate safety concerns at the bluff, the existing pedestrian access to the beach was not improved.

One condition of the ECDP requires the City to submit a coastal development permit (CDP) application that addresses long-term drainage solutions for the project area. Long-term drainage solutions will be addressed in conjunction with this project.

On September 24, 2019, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution approving a CDP for the improvements (PDP 19-035) including wooden steps, railing, drainage, and other associated improvements.

DISCUSSION:

This project was originally advertised for bids in December 2019 for over 30 days. However, no bids were received at the opening in mid-January 2020. After some minor revisions to the project scope, one (1) proposal was received from Cazadoro Construction, Inc., of San Francisco, California on April 2, 2020. The total sum for construction of the pedestrian access improvements is \$157,000.

While this project falls within the capital project budget authority of the City Manager, the current budget uncertainty warrants disclosure to the City Council and possible discussion. Repairing and improving vertical access at Poplar Beach has been regularly identified as a priority project for community members and the City Council. This project not only addresses a critical public safety need, but also fulfills permit obligations for the California Coastal Commission.

The COVID-19 crisis provides a unique opportunity to address this safety project with little impact to community members or visitors. Staff acknowledges the current economic volatility during these times. The vertical access in question has continued to erode with continued use and minimal maintenance. The slope of the access is bare and is steeper, causing most individuals to have a hard time navigating it. This project will address these issues by adding wooden steps and handrails for safety. Drainage along the staircase will also be addressed to ensure proper flow away from the bluff and at energy dissipators.



Poplar Beach Vertical Access

Staff is recommending that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with construction of the planned Poplar Beach Vertical Access Project (CIP No. 597), award a contract to Cazadoro Construction, Inc., of San Francisco, California, in the amount of \$157,000, for the project and authorize a transfer of \$30,000 from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Implementation Program (CIP No. 615).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. 2019 Coastal Development Permit