

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: March 15, 2010

Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Call for Bids and Award of Contract for Lower Codornices Creek Restoration, Phase 3, Step 2.

**FROM:** Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator  
Ana Bernardes, Project Manager  
Randy Leptien, City Engineer

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the City Clerk to invite bids for the Lower Codornices Creek Restoration – Phase 3, Step 2, to complete the restoration of the creek between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets and the construction of a Class I bicycle/pedestrian trail along this segment.

**BACKGROUND**

The Codornices Creek Restoration Project is a joint project with the City of Berkeley and the University of California to restore lower Codornices Creek between the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks on the west and San Pablo Avenue on the east. The western portion of the Codornices Creek Project from the Railroad tracks to 6<sup>th</sup> Street has been completed in Phase 1 (2005) and Phase 2 (2006) projects. The third phase of the Codornices Creek Project includes the continued restoration of the creek between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> streets and the construction of a Class I bicycle/pedestrian trail along this segment, connecting to the Berkeley Bicycle Path network at 8<sup>th</sup> street.

After several years of negotiations, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) entered into an agreement in April of 2006 with the cities of Albany and Berkeley, agreeing to the project and ensuring the establishment of a maintenance, conservation, and public access easement upon completion of this segment of the project. This enabled the City to proceed with a \$2.1 million grant application which was awarded in fall of 2007. The grant will expire in June of 2011.

Phase 3 of the project was divided in two steps. Step one was completed at the end of 2008 and consisted of removing and relocating the USPS northern fence and building a new CMU wall in order to add approximately 7000 square feet to the creek right-of-way, and allow for the development of the 80 foot wide floodplain restoration and the construction of a Class 1 bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting to the regional Bicycle trail at 8<sup>th</sup> street.

The second “step” of Phase 3 is scheduled to be constructed during the summer of 2010, and includes the actual creek restoration and construction of the trail. Construction of the project is

dependent upon the demolition of the old UC Village maintenance building, which will be completed (by UC) on August 2, following the move of the AUSD Child Care Center on August 1, 2010. The AUSD will permanently relocate the Center to the prior Vista School site on Jackson Street.

## **DISCUSSION**

Work will be performed on the north and south bank of Codornices Creek between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> streets. The northern portion is the property of UC and the southern portion is federal (USPS) property. This phase of the project will enable the restoration of the channel meander and a pool riffle stream type, along with fish passage to the existing 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> street culverts and riparian habitat restoration. The trail construction will be on the USPS side of the creek. Also included in the project is the completion of an accessible sidewalk and crossing at 6<sup>th</sup> street. The bid alternate items are as follows: 1) to install a drive cut at 8<sup>th</sup> street at the end of the path, 2) to construct an informal outdoor Classroom, with an ADA path and timber steps, and 3) stepping stones to the creek at 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

This is an opportune time to bid these items in the hopes that costs will be advantageous to the city. The outdoor Classroom, ADA path and timber steps are a bid alternate item that are funded separately by a Codornices Creek Watershed Council (CCWC) Stewardship Project Grant from the Coastal Conservancy. The CCWC will reimburse the City for the execution of these elements during construction. The project is estimated to take six months. The engineering estimate amount for this project is \$1.35 million including all the alternate items and a ten (10) percent contingency.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

This project will continue to widen and re-contour the floodplain and riparian areas, grading the new stream channel with increased sinuosity to improve the migration of fish upstream, stabilize stream banks with bioengineering methods, install in-stream habitat structures (root wads and boulders weirs/riffle starters) and replace non-native vegetation with native riparian habitat. The project provides a recreational trail and also a connection to the 8<sup>th</sup> street bicycle path to the Ohlone Greenway and to the Bay Trail. Educational opportunities are also included as a benefit of the cooperative work with the Codornices Creek Watershed Council project.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The City has obtained a \$2.1 million grant from the California Resources Agency River Parkways Grant Program for the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> street segment. Step 1 has expended approximately \$600,000 on the overall design and on the relocation of the USPS wall. The engineer's estimate Step 2 of the project is \$1.34 million, including all of the alternate items and a ten (10) percent contingency. Costs involving soils management and easement related surveying are reimbursable from the joint University/City of Berkeley escrow funds.

### Attachments

Layout Plan

Revegetation Plan

