

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

Agenda date: October 17, 2011  
Reviewed by: BP

**SUBJECT:** Request for Qualifications to solicit an architectural firm for the development of Pierce Street Parcel

**FROM:** Penelope Leach, Recreation and Community Services Director  
Jeff Bond, Community Development Director

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That Council authorize the City Manager to release the attached Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to solicit potential architectural firms to lead a team of professionals in the design and development of a new Public Works Division maintenance facility and to provide oversight for the development of the neighborhood park and bicycle/pedestrian trail.

**BACKGROUND**

On March 21, 2011, Council adopted Resolution 2011-17, authorizing the purchase of the Pierce Street property site from Caltrans, and identifying the public uses of the property. The vacant 4.5 acre parcel was purchased by the City in June 2011. The property is immediately adjacent to highways I80 and I580. The parcel was formerly a freeway ramp, and is bounded by Pierce Street on the east and Cleveland Avenue on the south.

**DISCUSSION**

The acquisition of the now vacant Pierce Street parcel is critical to moving the City's maintenance center off of Cleveland Avenue to allow for commercial development to occur, and to relieve the City of ongoing lease payments for the current facility. The parcel will include the development of the maintenance center as well as the development of a neighborhood park and bicycle/pedestrian trail.

The firm selected to design the new maintenance facility will assist in the organization and management of the overall site design for the parcel. The rationale for this process is to select a consultant well qualified in the design of maintenance facilities, while acknowledging that site design for the entire parcel must be coordinated with the adjacent and overlapping uses. The selected firm will work with the City to advise on the selection of a landscape architecture team for the design of an adjacent neighborhood park and bicycle trail.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The development of the maintenance center and the creation of the neighborhood park and the bicycle/pedestrian trail connection on the Pierce Street parcel will provide park, active transportation, and infrastructure improvements to a currently vacant and unused site. The use of portions of the parcel for a neighborhood park and trail will provide needed open space and recreational facilities for a very densely populated portion of the City. The bicycle trail will ultimately connect the Ohlone Greenway/BART station with the Bay Trail. In addition, the City's building requirements require LEED Gold standards.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact for releasing the RFQ.

### Attachments:

RFQ