

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

Agenda date: 12/15/08  
Reviewed by: BP

**Subject:** Codornices Creek Restoration between Kains Avenue and San Pablo Avenue – Contract for final engineering and landscape plans

**Report by:** Ann Chaney, Community Development Director

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve a contract with Restoration Design Group (RDG) to prepare final engineering and landscape plans for Codornices Creek Restoration between Kains Avenue and San Pablo Avenue. The contract amount is \$98,211.

**BACKGROUND**

In 1996 Albany residents passed Measure R that provides funding for creek restoration projects. In the mid 1990's, when the non-profit low-income housing developer (Resources for Community Development) proposed its Creekside Apartment complex, the City of Albany recognized an opportunity for a future river parkway. Thus, Measure R funds were applied toward the preparation of a topographic survey and concept design plan, which assisted the City in obtaining creek easements from the developer. In 2001, the City Council approved a request by the property owner to record an *Offer of Dedication of Easements for Creek Conservation, Flood Control and Access* along and over Codornices Creek between Kains Avenue and San Pablo Avenue. However to date, creek restoration efforts have focused primarily on the area west of San Pablo Avenue due to limited staff resources.

The City of Berkeley owns the parcel of land on the south side of the creek at Kains Avenue, and uses it to access an existing “trash rack” structure. Thus, Albany partnered with Berkeley during the concept plan stage to address issues of restoration design, public access, and maintenance access. RDG was hired to develop the concept plan and worked with both cities to complete those plans. During that time, the Friends of Five Creeks commissioned a mural to be painted on the rear wall of the commercial building located on San Pablo Avenue.

**DISCUSSION**

The City of Albany has long envisioned a publicly accessible open space along Codornices Creek, which represents the jurisdictional boundary between Albany and Berkeley. Although highly-urbanized, the Codornices Creek watershed is unique in the

East Bay, as a population of steelhead continue to migrate up and down the creek. Local residents will also benefit from improved open space areas and the creation of a new parkway.

The attached Scope of Services proposal includes the development of schematic design alternatives for creek restoration, a small park for creek viewing, a pedestrian bridge, and landscaping. Flood modeling, structural wall evaluation and design, and resource agency permit coordination, are also included in the Scope. The schematic plans will be presented to the neighborhood at a public meeting, as well as to the property owner, Albany Parks and Recreation Commission, and Berkeley Parks and Waterfront Commission. Plans and recommendations will be presented to the City Council, after which they will be advanced to 100% construction documents.

### **ANALYSIS**

Once the 100% construction documents are completed, grant funding will be sought. The City of Berkeley staff would like to take the lead on implementation and is working on a draft grant application for project construction. It is estimated that the cost to construct the project will be about \$1,000,000.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

Restoration of this creek will enhance the environment for fish passage, and provide a publicly accessible open space area. Opening up and restoring urban streams increases public awareness to the importance of watershed systems.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The cost of this contract is \$98, 211. The recently adopted Capital Improvement Plan has allocated \$110,000 in Measure R monies for this project (\$55,000 FY2008-09 and \$55,000 FY2009-10). Therefore, adequate funding is available for both the contract amount and for internal city engineering review.

### **Attachment**

Scope of Services for Codornices Creek Creekside Park