

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

Agenda Date: 7/20/2009

Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Contract C09-1: Creek Monitoring Contract in amount of \$27,000 (from Codornices Creek Account) with Far West Engineering to provide monitoring and reporting per requirements of permitting agencies for Codornices Creek Restoration Project.

REPORT BY: Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve Contract C09-1 with FarWest Engineering to provide monitoring and reporting per requirements of permitting agencies for Codornices Creek Project.

BACKGROUND

The Codornices Creek Restoration Project is a multi-jurisdictional project involving the City of Albany, the City of Berkeley, and the University of California to restore lower Codornices Creek and to improve water conveyance capacity between the Union Pacific Railroad Tracks on the west and San Pablo Avenue on the east. The project also includes a Class 1 bicycle/pedestrian trail and interpretive elements. The permitting agencies for the project include the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); the Army Corps of Engineers; and the Dept. of Fish and Game (Streambed Alteration permit). As part of the project, the agencies require a 10 year monitoring and reporting period. This began in 2005. Far West Engineering has been coordinating all services and reporting related to this requirement since the completion of Phase 1 of the project. This is a renewal of the multi-year 2006 contract, which was for \$26,278.00.

DISCUSSION

The monitoring plan is attached as Exhibit A to the contract. It should be noted that costs for monitoring (and maintenance) are paid out of a separate "Codornices Creek Account" that is funded by the Berkeley/University of California "escrow account" which was set aside for this project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

The Codornices Creek restoration and trail project provides creek and habitat restoration, as well as resources for recreation, including a bicycle and pedestrian path that connects to the Berkeley Bicycle network, and will eventually connect to the Albany bicycle network. The conservation, maintenance and public access easements will ensure that use of this area is restricted to activities involving natural habitat and environmental protection, nature study, enjoyment of views, recreation, open space, flood control, and related uses.

The monitoring of the creek ensures that the overall health of the habitat, as well as the flood control aspects of the project, are being maintained.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The contract is for \$27,000. Funds for this are provided by the Codornices Creek Account, which is funded by the City of Berkeley and the University of California, and is administered by the City of Albany.

Attachments:

Contract C09-1 and attachments