



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Flood Control
Department No.: 054
For Agenda Of: November 7, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Directors, Flood Control and Water Conservation District

FROM: Department Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010
Director(s)
Contact Info: Thomas D. Fayram, Deputy Public Works Director, 568-3436

SUBJECT: **Goleta Slough Hydraulic Dredging Project, Second Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Directors:

- a) Find that the bids received for the Goleta Slough Hydraulic Dredging Project must be rejected because the hydraulic dredging cannot proceed due to sediment containing levels of fine-grained material beyond what is permitted for beach nourishment and regulatory agencies are unwilling to approve beach deposition of sediment containing more than 25% fine grain material; and
- b) Find that the recommended action, to reject bids, is a fiscal activity not constituting a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act, as set forth in California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) and statutorily exempt as noted in California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15270 as a rejection of a project.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda in order to reject the three (3) bids received on September 12, 2017 for the Goleta Slough Hydraulic Dredging Project. Pursuant to permit conditions, dredged material utilized for beach nourishment must be at least 75% sand and no more than 25% fine-grained- material. These limits are set by the California Coastal Commission, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

This project was to hydraulically dredge portions of Atascadero, San Jose, and San Pedro Creeks with approximately 67,000 cubic yards of material to be discharged via a pipe placed in the surf zone towards the west end of Goleta Beach County Park for beach nourishment.

Since 1993, over 800,000 cubic yards of sediment has been utilized for beach nourishment through the Goleta Slough Dredging Program. Very infrequently, an individual sediment test has exceeded 25% fine-grained material; however the overall percentage of fines has been within the permit parameters. While the Flood Control District (District) has never experienced several samples showing a high percentage of fine-grained material, the multi-year drought with little to no flushing flows through the slough, combined with a closed lagoon mouth for much of the last five years has resulted in the accumulation of higher fines than have ever been experienced in the past 26 years. The overall weighted average of fines currently in the sediment from the three creeks to be desilted is 36%.

The District requested approval from the permitting agencies and provided information to support our request to use this material for beach nourishment with the slightly higher fines percentage. However California Coastal Commission and Army Corps of Engineers staff were unwilling to make a decision and provide approval in a timeframe that would allow the District to proceed with the contract award for Hydraulic dredge project. In lieu of proceeding with the dredging project, the District will continue to implement dragline desilting that is part of an ongoing approved project that underwent environmental review and permitting. This will involve dragline desilting of 15,000 cubic yards of approved material from Atascadero Creek and trucking the material to Goleta Beach. Dragline desilting at Atascadero Creek began in mid-October with beach nourishment commencing at the beginning of November.

While sediment in San Pedro and San Jose Creeks is less than one mile from the ocean, it remains in place with some of it hopefully to be transported to the ocean through natural processes. The District worked very hard to gain approval to dragline and transport material from San Pedro and San Jose Creeks to the beach as well, however the California Coastal Commission denied approval due to the material exceeding the 25% allowable fine-grained material even though the District provided information to support and justify beach nourishment with this material and demonstrated a willingness to use this as a pilot project and monitor post-project conditions. Other regulatory agencies approved the request, however without Coastal Commission approval, the material remains in place. The Hydraulic dredge option has significant mobilization costs (\$225,000) required to secure, transport, set up, and return the dredge. As such doing only one of the three creeks is no longer economically justifiable.

The Notice to Bidders for this project states “The OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities and/or inconsistencies in a bid, and to make awards to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder as it may best serve the interest of the OWNER.” Further, Section 3, “Contract Award and Execution,” of the Flood Control District Provisions states “In its discretion, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District may accept or reject any bids.”

Staff recommends that the Board reject all the bids.

Background:

The Goleta Slough Dredging Project is a routine maintenance program that was originally certified by the Board in 1994. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was certified by the Board in 2000.

More recently, a revised project and Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Flood Control Maintenance Activities in the Goleta Slough was approved by the Board on November 9, 2010. The District has current permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board Permit, California Coastal Commission, County of Santa Barbara, and a lease from the California State Lands Commission. In addition, the District consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding steelhead trout, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the tidewater goby.

This project consisted of removing sediment that has been deposited in Atascadero, San Jose, and, San Pedro Creeks within the Goleta Slough area. Sediment was to be removed with a hydraulic dredge and discharged in the surf zone/beach at Goleta Beach Park.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Narrative:

There are no fiscal impacts with these actions.

Special Instructions:

Direct the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the minute order of this action to the Flood Control District office: Attn: Christina Lopez.

Authored by:

Maureen Spencer, Operations and Environmental Manager, 568-3437