



NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

September 10, 2019
Agenda Item No. 11

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Approval of Amendment No. One to Professional Services Agreement with Chambers Group, Inc. for Environmental Services for the Superior Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge and Parking Lot Project (15T09)

ABSTRACT:

On May 1, 2019, the City entered into a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Chambers Group, Inc. to perform environmental services for the Superior Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge and Parking Lot project (C-8020-4). Upon initial review of the draft environmental documents and the Coastal Development Permit requirements by Caltrans and the California Coastal Commission, respectively, the regulatory agencies have requested that some additional technical studies will be required. Amendment No. One is needed to complete these additional environmental and permitting documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve Amendment No. One in the amount of \$44,242.00 to the Professional Services Agreement with Chambers Group, Inc. for additional environmental services for a new not-to-exceed total price of \$161,217.00, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Amendment.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

The consultant's proposed fee for Amendment No. One is \$44,242.00. Sufficient funding is available in the current Capital Improvement Program budget. Services will be expensed to account No. 56201-980000-15T09 (Parks and Community Centers).

DISCUSSION:

On May 1, 2019, the City entered into a PSA with Chambers Group, Inc. in the amount of \$116,975.00, to complete the environmental services for the Superior Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge and Parking Lot project. The PSA scope of work includes completing several technical studies to satisfy both National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. This project is located within the Coastal Zone, approximately 1,000 feet from the Pacific Ocean. Proposed improvements include constructing a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge overcrossing Superior Avenue, a larger replacement parking lot and a dog park. Because of potential view impacts, some view simulations were included in the PSA. During our public outreach efforts, residents expressed concerns about potential view impacts. To better address specific concerns on potential view impacts, staff recommends completing additional view simulations to model both steel and concrete bridge options.

Staff has also been coordinating with Caltrans to satisfy the NEPA requirements as required by the funding grant. Upon their initial review, Caltrans requested a Coastal California Gnatcatcher focused survey. The Coastal California Gnatcatcher is listed as a “Threatened” bird by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The focused survey is required because the project is located in potential habitat for the Coastal California Gnatcatcher.

Additionally, since this project is located in the Coastal Zone and involves constructing a bridge abutment at Sunset Ridge Park, staff has been coordinating with the California Coastal Commission (CCC) to amend the Sunset Ridge Park Coastal Development Permit. Upon their initial review of the proposed improvements, CCC staff requested for a Jurisdictional Delineation of the wetlands that is nearby the project location.

Amendment No. One is needed to compensate the consultant for the additional view simulations, Coastal California Gnatcatcher focused survey, and the Jurisdictional Delineation of the wetlands efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Location Map

Attachment B – Professional Services Agreement