



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 18, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

PREPARER: David Caisse, Assistant City Engineer

DATE: January 10, 2023

TITLE: **Approve Conceptual Plans and Adopt the CEQA Categorical Exemption for the 8th & 9th Streets Improvements Project; and Award a Contract in the Amount of \$60,092 to CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc., for Phase 2 of the Project, to Provide Plans, Specifications & Estimates; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute all Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Approve conceptual plans and adopt the CEQA Categorical Exemption for the 8th & 9th Streets Improvements Project;
- 2) Award a contract in the amount of \$60,092 to CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. for Phase 2 of the project, to provide Plans, Specifications & Estimates; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

In 2020, the City applied for and was granted \$850,000 in funding through the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Infill Infrastructure Grant Program of 2019 (IIG) for the design, planning and construction of the 8th and 9th Streets Improvements Project. Council awarded the initial phase for preliminary engineering, public engagement and environmental analysis to CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc. (CSW|ST2) at the March 16, 2022, Council meeting. The Phase 1 work has been completed and Council's approval of the Conceptual Design and Environmental Document will close out this phase of the project. Along with staff's recommendation to approve the Conceptual Design and Environmental Document, staff is recommending that we move forward by awarding a contract for the next phase of the project. This award is for Phase 2—Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E). Once Phase 2 is complete, the City will have the option to award a subsequent contract to CSW|ST2 at a later time for consulting services for Phase 3—Construction Management of the Project.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, Arcata's 8th and 9th Streets are one-way directional traffic between "F" and "I" Streets, and the remainder portions of 8th and 9th Streets west of "I" Street are two-way traffic with parking

on both sides. The proposed project aims to extend one-way directional traffic by converting the two-way traffic portions of 8th and 9th Streets further west, between “I” and “K” Streets. The improvements will include new landscaping, bicycle lanes, parking and walkways. The conversion of two-way traffic roads to single-lane one-way traffic roads will provide more space for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, allowing for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that fully meets the mobility needs for all users. One-way streets will benefit pedestrians and cyclists by shortening crossing distances, thus reducing exposure of vulnerable users to vehicular traffic. This is one of the priority projects selected by Plaza Improvement Task Force in 2019-2020.

DISCUSSION:

In January 2022, the City solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consulting firms to provide engineering and environmental services necessary for the completion of the 8th and 9th Streets Improvement Project, and subsequently awarded a professional services contract to CSW|ST2 for preliminary engineering, public engagement and technical evaluations necessary to complete the environmental analysis for the project (Phase 1). Though the initial award was for Phase 1 only, the RFP solicitation was for consulting services for all project phases, with the understanding that the City would retain the option to award additional contracts, should the City decide to move forward with the same consultant for the subsequent phases of work; Phase 2 -Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) and Phase 3-Construction Management. CSW|ST2’s performance of the Phase 1 project work has proven satisfactory to City staff, and staff has found their cost proposal for completing the PS&E to be reasonable. Staff therefore recommends the Council award a new professional services contract to CSW|ST2 for completing the PS&E (Phase 2) of the 8th and 9th Streets Improvement Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This project is Categorically Exempt (CE) from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to:

1. Section 15301(c) “Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes).”
2. Section 15304(h) “The creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.”

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The primary source of funding for this project will be from the IIG Grant and Measure G. The contract cost proposal amount is within the budget allocation for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. This project is budgeted as follows:

8th and 9th Streets Improvements

(CIP # 45-12b) Phase 2 - \$50,000 Account 231-50-45-51770

(CIP # 45-12c) Phase 3 - \$705,000 Account 231-50-45-57600

\$200,000 Account 101-50-45-57601

ATTACHMENTS:

