



AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: Coastal Access and Resilience Plan- Grant Acceptance- Contract Award

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PREPARED BY: Katie Marsolan, Project Manager

PRESENTED FOR: Action Information only Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution to accept a grant award of \$1,090,000.00 from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Eureka Coastal Access and Resilience Plan to further sea level rise planning studies and prepare 30% design and environmental review of four shoreline resilience projects.
2. Authorize contract with GHD, Inc. to perform professional services tasks of the Eureka Coastal Access and Resilience Plan in an amount of nine hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars (\$995,000.00); and
3. Authorize City Manager, or designee, to negotiate and execute applicable grant agreements and professional services contract documents.

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact Included in Budget Additional Appropriation

COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION

- Empowering and Engaging for a Healthy Community

BACKGROUND

The City of Eureka encompasses a six-mile shoreline between Elk River Slough to the south and Eureka Slough to the north. Humboldt Bay tidal waters touch upon the west shore of Eureka, where historic legacy uses included heavy industrial and commercial trades adjacent to the Bay. Critical infrastructure, including utilities and transportation, were traditionally placed along the commercial shoreline areas. Facilities such as roads, power, gas lines, fiber-optic lines, sewer mains, and sewer pump stations are now experiencing or are threatened by tidal inundation.

The City recently completed the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability & Capital Improvement Adaptation Plan (SLR-CIP Plan, GHD 2023), which was presented to the City Council in February 2023. The SLR-CIP Plan identified and characterized sea level rise

vulnerabilities for utilities, transportation assets, and public facilities along the City's shoreline. The purpose of the plan was to identify the inundation pathways, extent and duration of flooding to inform future capital improvements of City's critical infrastructure based on a standard 20-year CIP planning horizon and 1.5 feet of sea level rise. Conceptual adaptation strategies were identified that included nature-based and more traditional approaches to flood and erosion prevention.

Staff engaged with the State Coastal Conservancy to share the outcomes of the SLR-CIP Plan and identify specific shoreline resilience projects and potential state funding. The discussions and meetings included engagement with GHD, Inc. to identify technical studies, analysis, and methods for shoreline planning. These efforts resulted in the Coastal Access and Resilience Plan that takes a dual approach to include both planning, analysis and engagement coupled with modeling, 30% design and CEQA. The work will advance four unique shoreline projects into conceptual design and environmental review, thus placing these critical resilience projects closer to implementation.

DISCUSSION

In February 2024, the State Coastal Conservancy board authorized a grant award to the City of Eureka in the amount of \$1,090,000.00 for the Coastal Access and Resilience Plan (CARP). The CARP consists of studies, adaptation alternatives, and advancing four locations into concept design.

First, the work would expand the SLR-CIP Plan utilizing the vulnerability assessments and develop specific adaptation strategies. Existing shoreline data maps produced in 2013 will be updated with new shoreline assessments to document new erosion areas, changes along the shoreline, and inundation proximity to infrastructure. Shoreline assessment data will inform adaptation strategies and alternatives. Assessments, adaptation strategies, monitoring plans, and implementation timelines will make-up the larger Coastal Resilience Plan.

The CRP will function as a tool for engagement to explore adaptation concepts and visioning for resilience measures. The earlier SLR-CIP showed the inundation impacts, and the CRP will provide measures to adapt the landscape and respond to those inundation impacts. The CRP will utilize conceptual designs and other illustrative concepts, such as mapping of adaptation strategy extents, to communicate various multi-benefit strategies for the shoreline, existing infrastructure, and the surrounding natural habitat to adapt to projected sea level rise.

Second, to advance development of resilience projects, supporting environmental studies will be performed at four locations previously identified in the SLR-CIP Plan. These sites were identified as highly vulnerable for inundation and may be suitable for nature-based solutions. These include Pound Road/Seasonal Marsh Area, Palco Marsh Area, and a segment of shoreline between Hilfiker Avenue and Trusedale Avenue. The fourth site, the Wastewater Treatment Plant outfall standpipe at the Elk River spit, is identified as a priority site. While the site is less suitable for nature-based solutions, it is critical utility infrastructure that requires thoughtful planning.

Together, the Coastal Resilience Plan encompassing all seven shoreline segments, and the site-specific nature-based concept plans and environmental analysis, will result in the Coastal Access and Resilience Plan work products (CARP).

Staff is requesting City Council adopt a resolution to accept the grant award in the amount of \$1,090,000.00. The grant award includes a City match of \$110,000.00. The studies and planning phases will occur over a two-year period and be completed during fiscal year 2025/26. Staff propose to allocate the \$110,000.00 matching dollars, from the wastewater fund, as a component of the 2025/26 budget.

Staff is recommending that City Council authorize a contract with GHD, Inc. to perform the CARP planning tasks. The Procurement Policy (2.00) provides: "A sole source purchase or contract may be awarded without a competitive procurement process when there is only one reasonable and practicable source for the required goods or services because of the unique quality of the goods or services."

Due to the unique type of work, and their familiarity with the subject material because of past consulting services, staff recommends Council authorize a contract with GHD, Inc. in an amount of nine hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars (\$995,000.00). If approved, GHD would perform a variety of professional services, technical studies, analysis, and environmental review. Additionally, GHD would retain sub-consultants, such as Northern Hydrology and Engineering for hydraulic modeling, to provide sea level rise models, that are consistent with earlier shoreline planning methods.

The full CARP project budget is \$1,200,000.00 and represents \$1,090,000.00 from the State Coastal Conservancy and \$110,000.00 from FY 25/26 City wastewater funds. The remaining project funds at \$205,000.00 will be allocated for future project related expenses that may include public engagement, technical studies, and professional studies performed by other consulting firms.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

- City Attorney
- City Clerk/Information Services
- Development Services
- Finance
- Fire
- Parks and Recreation
- Personnel
- Police
- Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 24-_____

Project Location Map Eureka Shoreline