



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 17, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

DATE: April 25, 2023

TITLE: **Award a Contract in the Amount of \$334,783.39 to GHD, Inc., for Professional Services to Support the Project Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) and Right-of-Way (ROW) Phases of the Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a Contract in the Amount of \$334,783.39 to GHD, Inc., for Professional Services to Support the Project Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) and Right-of-Way (ROW) Phases of the Annie and Mary Connectivity Trail Project;
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all applicable documents.

INTRODUCTION:

The Environmental Services Department continues to advance the Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project (Project) to provide a safe walking and biking route from the existing northern terminus of the Humboldt Bay Trail at the Arcata Skate Park to the Valley West neighborhood, the Aldergrove Industrial Park, and the Mad River at the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Park 1.

In December 2022, the City Council adopted an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project. In January 2023, the California Transportation Commission approved the allocation of funding for the PSE (project specifications and estimates) and ROW (right-of-way) phases of the project. The majority of funding for this project is through a grant from Caltrans' Cycle 5 Active Transportation Program.

This proposed contract, with a team led by GHD, will support City staff in completing designs and right-of-way certification for the Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project.

BACKGROUND:

The Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project will provide a safe, separated non-motorized transportation route between downtown Arcata and the Valley West neighborhood and the Aldergrove Industrial Park employment center, and between affordable neighborhoods, including the

Yurok Indian Housing Authority 30th Street Commons Improvement Project and Cal Poly Humboldt. The project will also provide a safe, family-friendly connection to the nearby Mad River. The City will be working in partnership with the County of Humboldt to design the segment of the trail project outside of the Arcata city limits and with Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) to design a trailhead at Park 1 on the Mad River.

On June 30, 2021, the City solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consulting firms to provide engineering and environmental services necessary for the completion of the Arcata Annie & Marty Trail Connectivity Project, and subsequently awarded a professional services agreement to GHD, Inc. to complete Phase 1, the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED). 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 subsequent contracts for later phases of the project, once phase funding was allocated by the California Transportation Commission. The City received two proposals from qualified firms in response to its RFP, and after applications were rated and scored, the GHD team was selected for contract award. GHD's team supported the City in completing the PA&ED phase for the project to the City's satisfaction, and staff finds GHD's cost proposal for completing the PS&E and ROW phases to be reasonable. Staff now recommends awarding a contract to GHD for Phases 2 and 3 (PS&E and ROW) of the Project.

DISCUSSION:

The City's Engineering Department will lead the engineering and design work for the project with support from the GHD team. Specifically, GHD's tasks will include:

- Environmental mapping and studies to support NEPA
- Topographical survey and right-of-way mapping
- Geotechnical investigations at specific locations along the proposed trail corridor
- Habitat mitigation and monitoring plan
- Right-of-way clearance support
- Project management and coordination

The proposed scope for the GHD team also includes a task to complete several NEPA-related (National Environmental Policy Act) studies as the City has recently learned of the strong potential for a new financial contribution from Caltrans of federal funding to support the creation of Complete Streets facilities on the Giuntoli Lane overpass over State Route 299. City staff anticipate confirmation this summer of this additional funding for project construction. If this additional financial contribution is finalized, Caltrans will serve as the lead agency for NEPA.

During the initial phase of this project City staff held multiple community input opportunities and outreached to property owners adjacent to the proposed project. During this next design phase, City staff will work closely with adjacent property owners and interested community members to ensure that the trail design promotes safety and connectivity to key destinations, enables sustainable operations and maintenance, and minimizes impacts to adjacent private property. City staff have already begun working closely with HBMWD and adjacent property owners in the unincorporated County section of the project to survey property boundaries and rights-of-way in order to secure right-of-way for the trail along the former Annie & Mary rail corridor.

City staff anticipate that the design and right-of-way phase will commence in late May 2023 for a duration of 18 months. Following design and right-of-way City staff anticipate construction to commence in summer 2025.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Finalizing the Environmental and Design plans to construct the Arcata Annie & Mary Trail is identified as a 2022/23 Priority Project. Completing the Annie & Mary Trail is also recognized as a City priority in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The project is on the City CIP list (48-07). Finally, the Annie & Mary Trail is also a priority regional commuter trail project in the Humboldt County Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

An Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared for this project and adopted by the City Council on December 9, 2022.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Grant funding has been allocated by the California Transportation Commission to cover the cost of PS&E and ROW support services. A budget adjustment will be completed to bring in additional grant allocation and expenses over what was originally planned in the 2022/23 budget. The majority of this contract will be carried out in the 2023/24 fiscal year. This project will be budgeted as follows:

Annie and Mary Trail Project	\$334,783.39	Account 210-50-48-51770
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ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Annie_Mary_PSE_Scope - Submittal 3 Reduced (PDF)