



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

TO: City Council

FROM: INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR VIDES
ASST PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES
SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER MOHANNA

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: LEE ROAD TRAIL PROJECT CONTRACT AMENDMENT #4 WITH
HARRIS & ASSOCIATES TO EXTEND CONTRACT TERM TO
JUNE 30,2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving Contract Amendment #4 for time extension for environmental consultant services for the Lee Road Trail Project with Harris & Associates, Inc.

BACKGROUND:

The Watsonville Trails and Bicycle Master Plan calls for installation of a series of trails along the western side of the City that will one day allow pedestrians and bicyclists to travel from Airport Boulevard to Lee Road on the far side of Highway 1 (see attached City Trails map). The Lee Road Trail is one of these trails. It will link the City's Rail Trail Project to Pajaro Valley High School (PVHS) and the proposed Harkins Slough Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge across Highway 1. The latter two projects are currently being designed. The Lee Road Trail will also provide secondary access for bicyclists and pedestrians to PVHS.

On May 14, 2019, Council adopted Resolution No. 66-19 (CM) approving an agreement with Harris & Associates to provide environmental consultant services for the Lee Road Trail Project in a not to exceed amount of \$119,144.74. Services included assisting the City with completing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, preparation of technical studies, preparation of permit applications for environmental resource agencies such as the California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and others and coordination with the Santa Cruz County Planning Department.

On August 25, 2020, Council adopted Resolution No. 143-20 (CM) approving Amendment 1, adding \$42,879.50 bringing the total to \$162,024.24. The Amendment provided for additional environmental services to consider alternative trail alignments that address neighboring property owners concerns.

On July 6, 2021, Council adopted Resolution No. 186-21 (CM) approving Amendment 2, adding \$27,150.00 bringing the total to \$189,174.24. This Amendment provided for additional environmental services to address requests by permitting agencies for additional testing and research.

On March 08, 2022, Council adopted Resolution No. 43-22 (CM) approving Amendment 3, adding \$112,948.00 bringing the total to \$302,122.24. Amendment 3 provided for additional environmental services to address continued permitting effort.

DISCUSSION:

New Federal Highway Administration funds were allocated for the Lee Road Trail Project, as a result, the consultant will require more time to research the new regulations.

In the past, Harris and Associates applied for Mitigated Negative Declarations using California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. However, new fund sources have been identified from the Federal Highway Administration. The proposed Amendment 4 addresses the additional research needed to obtain Categorical Exemption following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The project is consistent with the following Strategic Plan goal:
03-Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial impacts.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.