

# Agenda Report



**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER MCCLOUD

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND  
ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
MIDDLE STRUVE SLOUGH HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Adopt a Resolution approving plans and specifications and calling for bids for the construction of the Middle Struve Slough Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project.

## **BACKGROUND:**

Plans and Specifications have been prepared for the Middle Struve Slough Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project; the project is ready to be advertised for bids.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Middle Struve Slough Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project is funded by the Ocean Protection Council through Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The project will implement watershed restoration and habitat protection measures that will address habitat loss and environmental degradation within the Watsonville Slough System through the enhancement of an 1,800-foot linear wetland and riparian corridor and restoration and enhancement of just under 5 acres of wetland, grassland, woodland, and riparian habitat. Project activity will also provide many additional co-benefits, such as flood attenuation, increased resiliency to climate change, and atmospheric greenhouse gas capture, improved access to nature, parks, and trails for Watsonville residents, and provide extensive environmental education, and nature experiences for Watsonville residents.

The project consists of installing a temporary diversion and dewatering system prior to the start of ground disturbing activities; excavating three seasonal wetland depressions to improve habitat functions; constructing an approximately 6,800 square foot catchment basin to provide opportunities for sediment capture from an existing storm drain that will discharge directly into the basin; constructing an approximately 30-foot-long rock-lined channel and 200-foot-long vegetated swale that will route discharge from

an existing storm drain into a constructed wetland and provide water quality treatment opportunities; placement of excess excavated material at a spoils placement area located at the project site and; constructing a 10 ft. x 15 ft wooden overlook platform founded on concrete piers and associated grade beam.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This restoration project has been found to be categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15333, Class 33, Small Habitat Restoration Projects for projects of less than five acres. Staff prepared and filed a Notice of Exemption that was filed with the County Clerk for the County of Santa Cruz and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research on November 3, 2021 (SCH 2021110033). The City Council's action here will merely implement the project, which has already been determined to be exempt from CEQA. Therefore, nothing further is required under CEQA. All other environmental permitting will be finalized prior to construction.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This project supports Strategic Plan Goal:  
2-Infrastructure & Environment

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

No financial impact at this time. The project is grant funded and any budget appropriation that may be required will be determined when the project is brought back to the Council for award.

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTION:**

The City may choose to not proceed at this point and return all grant funds already appropriated.

### **ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):**

Plans and specifications are on file at the City Clerk's office.