



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
TO: CITY COUNCIL
WRITTEN BY: ASSIST. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES DIRECTOR FONTES
RECOMMENDED BY: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
APPROVED BY: TAMARA VIDES, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 6 WITH HARRIS AND ASSOCIATES FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,960.17 AND EXTEND CONTRACT TERM TO DECEMBER 30, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving Contract Amendment No. 6 for additional environmental consultant services in the amount of \$36,960.17 from Measure D funds and a time extension for the end date of contract to December 30, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

On May 14, 2019, Council approved Resolution No. 66-19 (CM) and an agreement with Harris & Associates (Harris) to provide environmental consultant services for the Lee Road Trail Project Phases 1, 2 and 3. 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.

The environmental process is nearing completion, and additional effort and funds are needed to finish the environmental phase. The project involves the US Army Corp of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Agencies have requested many changes, including a mitigation site and weatherization plan for phase 1 only. The agencies also requested a preliminary design for Mitigation sites for phases 2 and 3, which will require a hydrologic analysis for the flows and flood frequency on City property adjacent to

Pajaro Valley High School. There is an impact fee associated with this project that must be paid to the RWQCB. Harris has managed the exchange of question and answer (Q&A) for these permits and additional funds are needed to support this effort.

DISCUSSION:

Development of the Lee Rd Trail project has required City staff and Harris to work with several regulatory agencies and partners to secure permits. This has led to multiple correspondences with the US Army Corp of Engineers, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Regional Water Quality Control Board, beyond what was initially estimated in the Harris contract. The agencies now require a Preliminary Mitigation Site plan of Lee Road Phase 2 and 3, instead of a conceptual plan. This effort will require additional reviews, reports and hydro analysis. The proposed amendment incorporates this work.

Staff recommend that the City Council approve contract Amendment No. 6 with Harris & Associates in the amount of \$36,960.17 for a new total compensation amount not-to-exceed \$343,082.41 and extend the term of the contract to December 30, 2025.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) DETERMINATION:

On December 23, 2020, the County adopted a mitigated negative declaration for the Lee Road Trail project. No changes to the mitigated negative declaration are necessary. It proposes no changes to the project that would require additional environmental analysis, and none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have been met.

No substantial changes involving new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects are proposed, and there has been no change in circumstances. There is no new information about the project that could not have been known at the time of the original project approval that indicates any new significant environmental effects or effects that will be substantially more severe, nor are there new mitigation measures that would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, or mitigation measures previously found to be infeasible that would, in fact, be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project. Therefore, nothing further is required under CEQA.

The City hired Harris and Associates to perform the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process under this contract. The CEQA lead Agency is County of Santa Cruz. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared, and the declaration findings were that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts are documented in the Initial Study and listed in the Mitigation Monitoring and Report Program.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The project addresses the following Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The cost of Contract Amendment No. 6 will be \$36,960.17. This Amendment shall be funded from the following Measure D Account:

Lee Road Trail Phase 1 Account Number 0312-972-7837-14860

These funds were allocated to the project in FY 24/25.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

None