



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: Public Works and Utilities

SUBJECT: Contract with Craftwater Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for creation of the City's Green Infrastructure and Implementation Plan

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Award a contract to Craftwater Engineering, Inc. for creation of the City's Green Infrastructure and Implementation Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council award a contract to Craftwater Engineering, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for creation of the City's Green Infrastructure and Implementation Plan. This project is funded through the Bay Area Council Foundation Climate Resiliency Challenge Grant that the City was awarded in August 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The City is located in the 1300 square mile Pájaro River Watershed and prone to floods that are exacerbated by climate change. Other extreme weather patterns have become increasingly common in the region, including extreme heat and drought. The City's agricultural economy and large economically challenged population make it particularly sensitive to the impacts of climate change.

With a grant from the California Resilience Challenge, Watsonville is developing a Green Infrastructure (GI) implementation plan for the City to achieve a myriad of adaptation goals by using vegetation, soils, and natural process to manage water and create a more resilient environment. GI can range in scale from site design approaches such as raingardens and green roofs, to regional planning approaches such as land conservation or wide-scale tree planting.

The GI implementation plan will serve as a robust update of the 2006 Urban Greening Program and will supplement the 2012 and upcoming 2030 Climate Action Plans. While both programs introduced important sustainability practices, that work primarily focused on energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction. Watsonville's GI implementation plan recognizes

the need for more direction action and therefore focuses its efforts on increased resiliency and climate adaptation.

Specifically, the Plan will develop and deploy a “site selection” methodology that identifies GI priority areas based on prior planning efforts, community input, and supplemental climate modeling techniques. The Plan will also identify feasible conceptual designs for priority areas and provide an implementation roadmap with tangible funding opportunities.

Overall, funds through the California Resilience Challenge will allow the City to identify the types of GI projects that will benefit the community through beautification, carbon sequestration, habitat connectivity, improved air quality, and water quality.

Selection Process

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted on September 21, 2020 and left open for 30 days. City staff received five proposals. Working with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department and Watsonville Wetlands Watch, the proposals were ranked and the top three firms were interviewed.

Craftwater Engineering, Inc. ranked in the top position after oral interviews. Craftwater Engineering, Inc. has an innovative and integrated approach to analyzing opportunities for green infrastructure throughout the City, with extensive experience doing this type of work in other communities similar in size to Watsonville. The proposed GI Implementation Plan will utilize the City’s existing Municipal Storm Sewer System mandates, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, and Urban Greening Plan to locate optimal site locations to achieve maximum benefits of green infrastructure.

Craftwater Engineering, Inc. has a team that will perform bilingual stakeholder outreach and engagement to incorporate the community’s input into the Plan. The final Plan will have two to three prioritized projects that will be design ready for future grant funding. The Plan will be completed by December 2021.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The Green Infrastructure and Implementation Plan is consistent with the City’s Strategic Plan priorities:

- 03-Infrastructure & Environment
- 05-Community Engagement & Well-Being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This project will be funded from the grants fund, fund number 338 5890 11090, and will be paid entirely by a grant from the Bay Area Council Foundation through its Climate Resiliency Challenge program. This is a one-time project that ultimately will create a pathway for future grant investments into green infrastructure. There are no grant requirements for match. However, City staff time will be used for administration and contract management.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

Alternatives would be to select a different consulting firm.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

1. City Council Resolution No. 58-20

CITY COUNCIL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AWARDED CONTRACT TO CRAFTWATER ENGINEERING, INC., A CORPORATION, FOR CREATION OF THE CITY'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE SAME