



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

CITY HALL

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**CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: November 29, 2010

Subject

Scenic Circle Access, Progress Update.

Recommended Action

Review the final design and authorize bidding in early December 2010 for Scenic Circle Access.

Discussion

On February 16, 2010 the City Council reviewed alignment alternatives for providing access from Scenic Circle to Stevens Creek Trail and Blackberry Farm Park. The City Council supported proceeding with the project and providing a pathway to an existing bridge over Stevens Creek.

On April 6, the City Council conducted a hearing on a petition for reconsideration of its February 16, 2010 decision. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Council adopted a resolution denying the petition, thereby affirming the original decision to proceed with the project.

On October 5, the City Council reviewed and discussed the results of two neighborhood meetings held in May and June. Staff, assisted by consultants, listed the concerns of the residents and their ideas for addressing issues that could arise with implementation of the project. In brief, residents requested the following:

- Locate the path entry midway between and opposite two residents' rear yards
- Provide tiered actions to address parking issues as they arise
- Lock the gate every day at park closing time
- Locate animal resistant trash receptacle out of sight of the homes
- Remove the trash regularly

The City Council voted unanimously to include the neighbors' requests in the project, and the current bid documents include solutions to those concerns.

The bid documents have also been refined to incorporate required elements and actions identified in the environmental clearance ("CEQA") documents. Some of the requirements include:

- Conduct pre-construction wildlife surveys
- Install protective creek bank construction fencing

- Plant two new native replacement trees
- Hydrological review of conceptual and final design

The bid documents include a pathway made of stabilized crushed granite (DG), similar to what exists in the Blackberry Farm group picnic area. The path connects Scenic Circle to the bridge with a gentle slope that meets ADA requirements. A low retaining wall protects a large but non-native Chinese elm considered important due to its size. (See Attachment A - Site Plan)

The bid documents include minor changes to the bridge to meet code requirements. A wooden ramp on the west end of the bridge and a wooden ramp and stair on the east end of the bridge are required to replace the existing non-ADA compliant wooden maintenance stairs.

Some existing small plants, in the way of construction, will be transplanted within the site. A number of new plants will also be planted to help establish additional understory. Two larger native trees will be planted as well to offset the necessary removal of several small oaks.

The bid documents specify materials appropriate for the creek corridor and the ranch-style setting. The wood and DG are “natural” and in keeping with the nearby features at Blackberry Farm. The path is fully accessible and meets applicable requirements. The materials are also suitable for the floodplain location and compatible with wildlife.

Several aspects of the project, including the current design and the environmental review, were not contemplated in the original budget of \$235,000. As the project has progressed, some of those costs have become more realistic. It now seems likely that the overall project cost will exceed the budget, but we won’t know to what extent until the bids are opened.

Both the Scenic Circle Access and the Blackberry Farm Upgrade bids are scheduled to be opened in the afternoon of January 18, 2011. Later that evening, Council has scheduled a full CIP review.

Environmental clearance documents for the project were issued for public review and comment on November 5, 2010. The public comment period closes on December 6, 2010. The environmental clearance documents and responses to public comments will be presented to Council in January.

The Council has requested completion of project construction prior to the start of next year’s school season. In order to do that, construction will have to occur during wildlife breeding season and the winter storm season. Of course, both seasons bring the risks of delay and additional cost. To avoid these risks, construction would have to be deferred to summer, but unfortunately, summer work would prevent completion before the start of the school year and probably not be complete until late fall.

### Sustainability Impact

The Scenic Circle Access project supports the City's sustainability goals. The new path will encourage and improve pedestrian and bicycle access from residential areas west of Stevens Creek to areas east of the creek including Stevens Creek Trail, Blackberry Farm, and the nearby schools.

### Fiscal Impact

If the City Council authorizes bidding, the amount of additional funding necessary to complete the project will be confirmed after bids are opened and construction costs and contingencies are fully known.

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Reviewed by: Mark Linder, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approved for Submission by: David W. Knapp, City Manager

Attachments: Attachment A – Site Plan