



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jim Arndt, Director of Public Works
Steve Finton, City Engineer
Juan Price, Maintenance Superintendent
Richard Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: July 6, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award a Contract in the amount of \$49,000 to Belaire-West Landscape, Inc. and Appropriate Funds in the Amount of \$66,000 From Available CIP Funds for the Sand Dune Slope Restoration Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council pass a motion to approve an appropriation of funds from CIP funds in the amount of \$66,000 and award a contract in the amount of \$49,000 to Belaire-West Landscape, Inc. for the Sand Dune Park Restoration Project.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

This project was not budgeted in the current fiscal year Capital Improvement Program. Consequently, it will be necessary for funds in the total amount of \$66,000 (contract, contingency, material testing, and minor landscaping improvements) to be appropriated from CIP Funds to fund construction of this project.

BACKGROUND:

At a Special Session of City Council held on April 13, 2010, City Council directed Staff to proceed with the restoration of the Dune to its original condition and to reopen the Dune for use in a limited manner. Staff began the process of preparing contract documents to replace existing sand on the depressed portion of the Dune, as well as look at minor improvements such as adding benches, trash cans and minor landscaping.

In the process of contract document preparation, Staff was alerted to the presence of a rare plant species, Orcutt's Yellow Pincushion on the Dune, north of the historical use area. Working with the California Department Fish and Game, the species was verified and plans for the protection of the identified species were incorporated into the restoration plans. Protection of the flower requires that a protective fence be constructed on the north ridgeline of the Dune. This strategy changed the original restoration plan from redistributing existing sand on site to the filling of the Dune hollow with imported material.

Restoration of the Sand Dune is Categorically Exempt pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City filed a Notice of Exemption for the project on May 21, 2010. Parties have 35 days to file legal challenge to the City’s environmental determination. The 35-day comment period expired June 25, 2010 and no legal challenges were filed; therefore, the project can proceed with risk of a challenge to the environmental determination.

DISCUSSION:

Staff has broken the project into costs associated with the Sand Placement (Belaire-West Landscape) and Minor Improvements, including benches, trash cans and minor landscaping.

Sand Placement.....\$56,000

This project was advertised for bids in six construction industry publications. Subsequently, 17 sets of plans and specifications were provided to contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers. A total of four bids were received and opened on June 17, 2010, with results as follows:

1.	Belaire-West Landscape, Inc.	\$49,000.00
2.	Southern California Grading, Inc.	\$58,800.00
3.	Clarke Contracting Corporation	\$65,800.00
4.	American Gardens	\$97,860.00

Belaire-West Landscape, Inc.’s bid was reviewed by the Public Works Department and found to be responsive after testing the proposed fill sand. Staff reviewed Belaire-West Landscape, Inc.’s contractor’s license and found it to be in order. Additionally, references indicate Belaire-West Landscape, Inc. has the knowledge and capability to complete the work. It is recommended that a contract be awarded to Belaire-West Landscape, Inc. for completion as apart of the Sand Dune Park Restoration Project. Staff will work closely with the contractor to complete the work during the period from July 19th through July 30th.

In addition to the Belaire-West cost of \$49,000, it is recommended that contingency costs of \$5,000 and materials testing costs of \$2,000 be authorized, bringing total Sand Replacement costs to \$56,000.

Minor Improvements.....\$10,000

Minor improvements include dune slope grubbing (\$2,000), sod (\$5000), bench and trash cans (\$3,000) for a total of \$10,000. Minor improvements are shown on attachment 1. These improvements reflect an effort to begin overall aesthetic upgrades to the Dune/Park and represent the first step to longer term improvements that can be better determined after an initial period of operation and observation of traffic patterns.

It is recommended that Council review additional improvements and their costs at their September CIP review of other City facilities. A broader menu of improvements at Sand Dune can be discussed and refined, and Council may determine if they have enough operational history of the new operation to make final decisions on longer term improvements.

Sand Dune Operations

When Sand Dune Park operations came before City Council in April, the Council requested that staff follow up with more information on the reservation system.

As staff stated in April, the Parks and Recreation Department will be using the ActiveNet reservation software system which is used for the department's classes and facility reservation/registrations.

- Reservations will only be allowed for the one-hour time slots as approved by City Council.
- To avoid monopolizing time slots, each participant will be allowed only one one-hour time slot per day
- Reservations may be made 14 days in advance or less and must be made at least one hour in advance.
- Only 20 reservations will be allowed for each time slot.
- Reservations will start Monday, August 2.
- Participants will have the option of paying a nominal charge for each reservation.
- Children 12 and under will be allowed on the dune during all open park hours.
- In the beginning, the Park Ranger will be scheduled to work his entire shift at Sand Dune Park. When he is not present, the Police Department has stated that they will enforce the rules with Community Service Officers and Police staff.
- After three to four months of operation, staff will report back to City Council with a status report.

Attachment: Proposed Interim Landscaping Improvements

xc: Henry Mitzner, Controller
Jeanne D. O'Brien, Accountant

Proposed Interim Landscaping Improvements

