



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR  
June 23, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Subject: Presentation: Aquatic Park Improvement Plan – Environmental Analysis – Hydrology Project

RECOMMENDATION

That Staff present a brief overview of the APIP hydrology project and allow Council to provide comments for consideration in the CEQA process.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

There have been several inquiries about the Aquatic Park Improvement Program presentation to City Council on June 23, 2009. This report briefly explains the nature of the presentation so that everyone is aware of what to expect.

The purpose of the presentation is to update Council on the current status of the Aquatic Park Improvement Program (APIP) hydrology project and introduce the CEQA process. Although the presentation is not the legal scoping session for the environmental review, it will offer Council an opportunity to comment on issues that they would like to have considered as part of the CEQA process.

The goal of the hydrology project is to improve the habitat conditions of the Aquatic Park lagoons. The first critical step toward achieving that goal is to improve the water quality by maximizing the tidal exchange between the Aquatic Park lagoons and the San Francisco Bay. Shortening the duration of a complete tidal exchange will lower water temperatures, increase dissolved oxygen levels and restore a more natural habitat to the lagoon. In turn, it is expected that the fish and invertebrate population will increase, thereby, providing the necessary food supply for birds that nest in the park habitat. The improved water circulation will also minimize algae growth and the related stench that occurs annually and is unpleasant for people using the recreational facilities in the park. The California State Coastal Conservancy has set aside \$2 million to fund the hydrology project through an allocation from Proposition 50, contingent upon completion of the CEQA process.

The next step for the APIP hydrology project is to complete the CEQA process, which we anticipate will conclude in summer 2010. The CEQA process will examine the environmental impact of the Preferred Project (“No Stormwater”) and identify significant issues and measures to mitigate the impact of the project if needed. The Environmental Impact Report requires us to evaluate alternative projects as well. Therefore, a “No Project” (do nothing scenario) as well as the “No Additional Stormwater” alternative will also be studied.

Lastly, the presentation will introduce multiple opportunities for public input provided throughout various stages of the CEQA process. During the presentation staff will formally announce the first such opportunity, a Public Scoping Session to be held at 7:00 pm on July 9, 2009. (Location to be announced at the Council meeting)

BACKGROUND

In developing a Preferred Project for environmental review the APIP Subcommittee and the Parks & Recreation Commission considered two primary projects. Both projects shared a common goal of improving water circulation in the lagoon. One option proposed altering existing conditions to prevent all stormwater from draining into the lagoon (the “No Stormwater” alternative). The other option proposed maintaining the current conditions, or not allowing any additional stormwater to drain into the lagoon (the “No Additional Stormwater” alternative). On June 24, 2008, Council, acting in concert with the recommendations of the APIP Subcommittee and the Parks & Recreation Commission, approved the “No Stormwater” alternative as APIP’s Preferred Project.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Award from California State Coastal Conservancy of \$2 million to implement hydrology improvements.

CONTACT PERSON

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