



County of Santa Cruz⁰³⁶⁵

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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TOM BURNS, AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

June 7, 2001

Agenda: June 19, 2001

Board of Directors
County of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Status of East Cliff Drive Cliff Stabilization and Pathway Project,
Approval of Financing for Environmental Impact Report and
Related Consultant Services**

Dear Members of the Board:

As you will recall, on the November 7, 2000 agenda your Board, as the Board of Supervisors, approved a status report for the East Cliff Drive Cliff Stabilization and Pathway Project. At that time your Board affirmed the project goals and project description, and directed staff to move forward with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project. A separate letter from the Planning Department is on today's agenda requesting approval of a consultant contract and scope of services for preparation of the EIR. Another letter on today's agenda from the Public Works Department requests approval of a contract amendment with Sanders & Associates Geotechnical Engineering (SAGE). The purpose of this letter is to update your Board on project activities since the last status report and to request approval of financing for the EIR and SAGE contract.

Background & Project Status

It has become increasingly clear that failures of the cliffs in the Pleasure Point area in the vicinity of East Cliff Drive, between 32nd Avenue and 36th Avenue as well as in the area of the "hook" at the end of 41st Avenue, will ultimately undermine the road including pedestrian/bicycle access along the road. This would have serious consequences for access to the beach and recreational uses in the area, threaten vehicle access to residences, as well as threaten public improvements including major underground utility lines.

For some time, the County and Redevelopment Agency have been exploring options for protecting and enhancing public use of this section of East Cliff Drive. In particular, efforts have focused on providing a generous public walkway and **bikeway** along the roadway and stabilizing the underlying cliffs. The proposed project includes construction of concrete "soil-nail" walls with a sculpted colored shotcrete facing to stabilize cliff areas where public improvements are threatened, followed by construction of pedestrian and bicycle paths, landscaping, and roadway and drainage improvements along the entire stretch of East Cliff Drive between 32nd Avenue and 41st Avenue. The county has received grant funding of over \$1 million from the State Department of Boating and Waterways and Coastal Conservancy, and has initial commitment from the Army Corp of Engineers for funding of approximately **\$2 million** for construction of these improvements.

Numerous public meetings have been held, the most recent project meeting held December 7, 2000, focused on a review the proposed project, a presentation regarding local geology and coastal dynamics, and an initial identification of possible environmental impacts for evaluation as part of an EIR.

A permit application for the project has been submitted, and the Planning Department has completed an Initial Study and moved forward with the steps needed to prepare an EIR. It has also been determined that because of the participation of the Army Corp of Engineers in the cliff stabilization portion of the project, that the environmental review must also conform to the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. In order to meet all NEPA requirements an additional public "Scoping Meeting" was held on April 12, 2001 at which public comments were heard regarding issues to be reviewed in the forthcoming **EIR/EIS**.

EIR/EIS Contracts

As explained in the Planning Department letter, Requests for Proposal to prepare the **EIR/EIS** were sent to qualified firms, two proposals were received and **TertaTech** of San Francisco has been selected by the County and Army Corp of Engineers to prepare the **EIR/EIS** for the East Cliff Drive Cliff Stabilization and Pathway Project for the contract amount of **\$339,646.90**. In order for the funds necessary to award this contract to be available a separate action is required by your Board, as the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Agency. Financing for this contract will be available as of July 1, 2001 pending approval of the Redevelopment Agency Proposed 2001/2001 budget.

In addition, as explained in the letter from the Department of Public Works, we are requesting approval of a contract amendment with Sanders & Associates Geotechnical Engineering, Inc (SAGE), to increase their existing contract by \$21,500 to \$110,500, which allows for additional technical support services as the Draft **EIR/EIS** is developed. SAGE has previously been responsible for investigating the feasibility of a soil-nail wall in this location, as well as updating our aerial survey records and preparing preliminary plans. In order for the funds necessary to award this contract to be available a separate action is required by your Board, as the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Agency.

Financing for this contract amendment is available in the Agency's current 2000/2001 budget.

Redevelopment Agency staff has determined that the project is of benefit to the Project Area, that no other reasonable means of financing the improvements are available to the community, that the project will assist in the elimination of blight, and that the project is consistent with the Redevelopment Agency's Five Year Implementation Plan.

Next Steps

Tetra Tech will be required to prepare the **EIR/EIS** on a "fast-track" schedule. It is expected that the Draft **EIR/EIS** will be prepared this summer and will be ready for publication and public review in early fall. At that time a community meeting will be held to introduce the Draft **EIR/EIS** to public. Following the public review and comment period the Final **EIR/EIS** will be prepared and published in early 2002, after which the permit application can be brought to public hearing. A project of this nature will require permits from a variety of state and federal agencies as well. In addition, the County staff will need to carefully coordinate final design and funding with the Army Corp of Engineers, which will be responsible for construction of the the **seawall** portion of the project, in order to secure it's required approvals. We remain hopeful that the **seawall** project will be ready to put out to bid during the 2002 construction season, however because of the lengthy and complicated process it is most likely that the **seawall** project will actually be constructed in 2003.

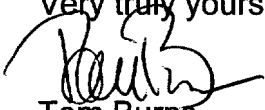
Recommendations

Progress continues to take place on this important coastal project. By taking the actions below the project will be on a path that will allow improvements in the area to begin in 2003.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that your Board, as the Board of Directors for the Redevelopment Agency, take the following actions:

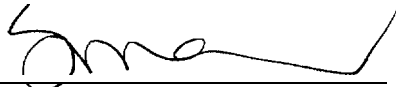
1. Accept and file this Status Report;
2. Authorize the expenditure of **\$339,646.90**, for a contract with Tetra Tech for the preparation of an **EIR/EIS** for the East Cliff Drive Cliff Stabilization and Pathway Project pending approval of the Redevelopment Agency's Proposed 2001/2002 Budget;
3. Authorize the expenditure of \$21,500 for a contract amendment with Sanders & Associates Geostructural Engineers, Inc for consultation services during the preparation of the **EIR/EIS**; and
4. Concur with and adopt the associated findings.

Very truly yours,



Tom Burns
Redevelopment Agency Administrator
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RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
Redevelopment Agency Director

cc. RDA
Planning
Public Works
Auditor-Controller

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