



# County of Santa Cruz

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## REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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TOM BURNS, AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

June 6, 2002

Agenda: June 18, 2002

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

### **Status of East Cliff Drive Stabilization and Pathway Project**

Dear Members of the Board:

For some time now, the Public Works Department and Redevelopment Agency have been developing options for stabilizing bluff areas along East Cliff Drive between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Avenues and at the end of 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue threatened by continuing coastal erosion in order to protect and enhance public improvements, including access to the beach and recreational uses in the area, and major underground utility lines located in the existing roadway. 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 continuing consultant services as described in a separate letter from the Public Works Department, also on today's agenda.

### **Background & Project Status**

The proposed East Cliff Drive Stabilization and Pathway 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 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> 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 \$3 million for construction of these improvements.

Following public meetings to gather public comment regarding the proposed scope of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), per both state and federal requirements, on the June 19, 2001 a contract for preparation of an EIWEIS was awarded to the environmental consulting firm Tetra Tech by your Board, as

the Board of Supervisors, A Draft EIWEIS is nearly complete and is expected to be released this summer. In the meantime, the Army Corps of Engineers, which will be responsible for all required approvals and construction of the seawall portion of the project, is also finalizing their feasibility study, called a Draft Detailed Project Report, to be released at the same time.

### **Next Steps**

A minimum 60 day review and comment period will begin following the release of the Draft EIR/EIS. At that time a community meeting will be held to introduce the Draft EIR/EIS to the public. Following the public review and comment period the Final EIR/EIS will be prepared and published, after which the project can be brought to your Board for approval. In the meantime, in order for the project to be ready for construction in summer of 2003, Public Works and Redevelopment staff will need to carefully coordinate preliminary engineering design for the cliff stabilization project and work to secure final federal funding with the Army Corp of Engineers.

A portion of the funding for this project is from a State Coastal Conservancy grant. A condition of this funding is the county's acceptance of five Offers to Dedication prior to the expiration date. It is expected that construction will be underway on the cliff stabilization project prior to the next expiration date in November of 2004, thus no action is necessary by your Board at this time.

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 \$73,000 to \$183,000, which allows for continuing design and technical support services needed to prepare the preliminary engineering design and to keep the project on the schedule described above. SAGE has previously been responsible for investigating the feasibility of a soil-nail wall, as well as updating our aerial survey records, and preparing plans and providing technical support during the preparation of the Draft EIWEIS. In order for the funds necessary to approve this contract amendment to be available a separate action is required by your Board, as the Board of Directors of the Redevelopment Agency. Financing of this contract is available in the Agency's current 2001/2002 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.

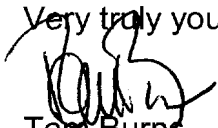
### **Recommendations**

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 of the Redevelopment Agency, take the following actions:

1. Accept and file this Status Report;
2. Authorize the expenditure of \$73,000 for a contract amendment with Sanders & Associates Geosstructural Engineers, Inc for engineering services for the preparation of preliminary engineering design; and
3. Concur with and adopt the associated findings.

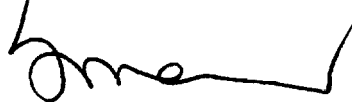
Very truly yours,



Tom Burns  
Redevelopment Agency Administrator

TB:BL

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello  
Redevelopment Agency Director

cc. RDA  
Public Works  
Auditor-Controller  
Parks Department

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