

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: March 6, 2024

To: Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC)
Proposition O Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC)

From: Christopher F. Johnson, PE, GE
Principal Civil Engineer
Bureau of Engineering, Clean Water Division



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Principal Environmental Engineer
Bureau of Sanitation, Safe Clean Water Implementation Division

Subject: **ALISO CREEK-LIMEKILN CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT SCOPE AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Authorize implementation of the Aliso Creek-Limekiln Creek Restoration Project (Project) to proceed in two (2) phases.
2. Authorize Phase 1 of the Project to proceed with the previously approved total project budget of \$16,140,089.
3. Authorize the City Administrative Officer, in coordination with the Bureau of Engineering (BOE), to make technical corrections, as needed, to the recommendations in this correspondence.

BACKGROUND

On February 16, 2021, Council authorized (CF 13-1526) an increase in the project budget of \$5,200,00 from \$10,940,089 to \$16,140,089. This increase was based on a construction cost estimate prepared in 2018. The Project is currently in the design phase and is approximately 95% complete. An updated construction cost estimate was prepared in September of 2023 which brought the estimated total project cost to \$29,266,467. This results in a budget gap of \$13,126,378. The increase in cost is due to scope changes and cost escalation since the 2018 cost estimate.

Scope changes by Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) include changing gravel maintenance access roads to be wider and constructed of asphalt concrete, and the addition of five concrete maintenance ramps for vehicular access into the basins. Design changes initiated by BOE include jacking and boring for a force main, electrical and communication conduits to cross underneath Limekiln Creek instead of over the top of the channel utilizing an existing rail bridge. In addition, pandemic-era inflation in the cost of materials and labor contributed to the cost increase.

To initiate construction using the existing approved funding, BOE and BOS are proposing to construct the project in two phases. Phase 1 of the Project would begin construction in fiscal year 2024-25 and would include two diversion structures, one pump station, one hydrodynamic separator, and two bioretention basins with a total estimated project cost of \$16,081,707, including escalation and contingency. This cost is within the currently approved funding amount. Phase 2 would require additional funding, would begin construction in fiscal year 2026-2027, and would include one diversion structure, one pump station, one hydrodynamic separator, and three bioretention basins with a total estimated project cost of \$16,852,099, including escalation and contingency. The total estimated project cost for the two phases would be \$32,933,806. BOE and BOS recommend delivering the Project in two phases by proceeding with construction of Phase 1 within the approved project budget while BOE and BOS coordinate efforts to secure additional funding for Phase 2.

BOS, with the assistance of BOE, submitted a Fiscal Year (FY) 24-25 Capital and Technology Improvement Expenditure Program (CTIEP) budget request in the amount of \$15,650,000 over two years (FY 24/25, \$8.0M and FY 25/26, \$7.65M). If this request is approved, implementation of the full project can proceed without phasing.

CFJ/jb

Attachment: CF13-1526

Cc: Rafael E. Prieto, CLA
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Master File