



Date: May 17, 2018
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *P.H. West*
Subject: Belmont Aquatics Center Update

This memorandum provides an update on the development of the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center (Belmont Pool).

The City continues to make progress on the entitlements for the Belmont Pool. City staff are working to finalize the Coastal Development Permit application, and has spent several months working with Coastal staff to understand the various questions they have about the project and the steps needed to bring this item before the Coastal Commission. These include conducting additional in-depth sea level rise analysis to understand any potential sea level rise impact on the potential site, and formulating solutions such as sand replenishment to ensure the facility is not affected by sea level rise, or interpreted as functioning like a sea wall.

City staff are also developing a robust outreach program with linkages to the City's current recreational programming to enhance the entire community's access to the pool. This will include marketing in multiple languages, enhanced transportation options from popular recreation sites in disadvantaged areas, and incorporating the pool into the City's current citywide recreational offerings so the pool serves the broadest population possible, with an emphasis on connecting disadvantaged communities to swimming opportunities. There continues to be active litigation against the pool and the City has been preparing for the court hearing, which will now take place on June 7, 2018.

Additionally, the City has been exploring funding opportunities, including sponsorship revenue, and have brought on an expert in the field to develop recommendations for the City on the feasibility of that option. The plan was to conduct a feasibility analysis and then determine if the City should proceed with the full effort, at a cost of approximately \$500,000. That feasibility study is nearing conclusion, after which we will likely take a short pause before considering any implementation phase until after the pool has received a Coastal Development Permit.

The Coastal Development Permit application has taken longer than expected, due primarily to the issues mentioned above, but staff expect to submit the application to the Coastal Commission within 30 days. This project continues make progress and is a high-priority project for the City.

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Lastly, while oil prices are trending higher, it is not clear whether there will be Tidelands surplus that would provide additional funding for capital projects. This is because of increased oil-related expenses including State mandated increased costs for future oil field abandonment and potential fluctuations of oil prices. We will not have an updated estimate of any net additional funding until later in the year. It still is our hope that in future years, if oil prices are high, that additional oil related funding revenues for capital projects such as the Pool and other high-priority projects will become available.

Please contact Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager, at (562) 570-5091 if you have additional questions.

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