




Date: June 14, 2018

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Update

Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) initiated the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Study) in February 2016. The goal of the Study is to restore and improve aquatic ecosystem structure and function for increased habitat biodiversity and ecosystem value within East San Pedro Bay. The Study process involves extensive collaboration between federal agencies, local governments, and key stakeholders. This memo provides an update on the study.

Progress to Date

Since the last update in November 2017, the Army Corps has made steady progress with the Study. The major accomplishments include:

Habitat Evaluation Model (HEM): The HEM model was completed incorporating numerous modeling outputs. This enables the Army Corps to evaluate existing and future capacity of various habitats. The environmental outputs of this Study are represented numerically as a Habitat Unit and are input into the Cost Effectiveness/Incremental Cost Analysis (CE/ICA) model.

Cost Effectiveness/Incremental Cost Analysis (CE/ICA): The CE/ICA is complete. The CE/ICA model balanced the results of the HEM and conceptual cost estimates to provide the Army Corps and the City with an array of cost-effective plans and “best buy” plans. This array of potential ecosystem restoration solutions is helping to inform the future selection of the Army Corps’ Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

Next Steps

With these major achievements, the team is poised for the next steps towards the TSP Milestone. Major benchmarks for the remainder of 2018 include:

Array of Alternatives: The team is currently evaluating the best buy plans to identify the array of alternatives to be included within the draft integrated feasibility report. The array will include three to five alternatives composed of measures of varying levels of habitat restoration, cost, and complexity. The array will include best buy plans as determined through Army Corps modeling efforts, with a request from the City to include locally preferred alternatives to meet local project objectives including study of options for possible breakwater reconfiguration. Each alternative will be evaluated within the draft integrated feasibility report.

Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP): The TSP is the Army Corps' preferred alternative for meeting the feasibility study goals. The TSP will be one of the alternatives within the array of three to five alternatives and provided for public comment as part of the draft integrated feasibility report.

Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR): The array of alternatives, including the TSP, will be presented in the draft Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR), which includes the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Army Corps is in the early stages of drafting the EIS and EIR. The report is anticipated to be shared with the community in November 2018 with a 45-day public comment period to follow the release.

Public Outreach and Input: City staff will be updating stakeholders and various community groups pertaining to the progress to date and next steps over the summer of 2018. Outreach efforts will be scheduled upon completion and release of the IFR in November 2018 and throughout the 45-day public comment period. Following the public review period, the team will review the public comments and address them accordingly.

Budget: Federal funding allocations are determined on an annual basis as the project progresses. To date, approximately \$609,000 in federal funding has been provided, including the \$194,000 budgeted as part of FY 18 that was confirmed on March 23, 2018. An additional \$298,000 has been requested for the Army Corps' FY 19 budget and the City is advocating for confirmation of this funding in early 2019. The City's share of the study is 1.5 million and have previously been committed.

The City's continued purpose for involvement in the Army Corps' process is to protect the City of Long Beach's interest in allowing for the Study to clearly evaluate the potential for a responsible reconfiguration of the Long Beach Breakwater and improvements to water quality and ecosystem restoration.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Joshua Hickman, Program Manager, at (562) 570-5714 or Joshua.Hickman@longbeach.gov.

CB:SC:JC
M:\IGR\FEDERAL\FEDERAL LEG COMM\MEMOS 2018\MCC_EASTSANPEDROBAYUPDATE_06 11 18 V3.DOTX

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
CRAIG BECK, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
LINDA TATUM, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
STEPHEN SCOTT, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
BOB DOWELL, DIRECTOR OF ENERGY RESOURCES
MICHAEL DUREE, FIRE CHIEF
DIANA TANG, MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
REBECCA JIMENEZ, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER