



## **Ocean Blvd. (Bluff) Erosion and Enhancement Project, Phase 2 Update September 18, 2014**

On July 28th 2014, the City Manager released a memo detailing construction progress on the Ocean Blvd. (Bluff) Erosion and Enhancement Project. Since this date, the sidewalk construction has been completed in Bluff Park. Handrail installation is ongoing and is expected to be fully completed in October. The installation of the handrail was delayed because the first major shipment of railing failed to meet the project's quality standards and must be repaired and repainted on-site. The contractor has advised City staff that this part of the handrail will require a 30 day cure time before it can be open to the public. Work on the bluff is also continuing, including installation of the required irrigation system and landscaping.

As for Bluff Park itself, before the contractor could proceed with the replacement of the park irrigation system, the City had to resolve an outstanding claim from the contractor for the costs of the delay in the project. The April 29, 2014 delay requested by the City Council of an active project was a unique occurrence, one that does not regularly occur in the City. As the City had a signed contract with the contractor, the contractor had a claim to certain costs associated with that delay. Those costs had to be identified, negotiated, and ultimately approved before the City was able to expend any additional funds with the contractor on irrigation improvements. Those costs have now been worked out, and the City has determined that funds are available for that part of the project. City staff issued the notice to proceed with the Bluff Park Irrigation Replacement Project on Thursday, September 11 and the contractor began work on Wednesday, September 17. The contractor expects to completely replace the existing irrigation system by November 1, 2014. The contractor has commenced with replacement of the system from Paloma Avenue to Redondo Avenue and then will replace the system from Paloma Avenue to Lindero Avenue. While replacement work is ongoing, one of the City's landscape contractors will be helping the City to temporarily water the park and trees.

In addition, on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, the Tidelands Capital Improvement Division presented the landscaping and planting plans for the project to City residents at the Bixby Park Social Hall. The focus of discussion at this meeting was the shotcreted portions of the Bluff between Temple and Paloma Avenue. A copy of

the City's presentation is available on the Tidelands website:

[http://www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/tidelands\\_capital\\_projects/bluff\\_erosion\\_phase\\_ii.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/tidelands_capital_projects/bluff_erosion_phase_ii.asp).

Andrew Quinn from the Tidelands Division presented the overall site plan and schedule for landscaping. Eric Zahn of Tidal Influence provided a comprehensive overview of the different planting zones and the variety of plants to be used in each zone. Eric Lopez, Tidelands CIP Officer, facilitated discussion after the presentation and answered questions from the community. A summary of questions raised and the City's responses can be found below.

### Questions and Answers

**Q:** Are the planter pockets completely encapsulated in concrete? How large are they and how many plants will be planted in each pocket? Will native plants be able to survive in them?

**A:** *The planter pockets are approximately 2 x 3 ft., and 2 plants will be planted in each pocket. The pockets have a natural connection with the original bluff soil. These planter pockets are modeled after natural bluff settings where seeds will fall from the top of the bluff and then take root on small areas of soil.*

**Q:** How does the drainage system work? Why are all the weepholes covered up?

**A:** *There's a drainage system behind the soil nail face which is connected to weep holes at the bottom of the bluffs. These weepholes will be connected to pipes and an outfall prior to construction completion.*

**Q:** How will the plants be managed to ensure successful growth and to restrict invasive species?

**A:** *The City will closely monitor the planting and new landscaping. Any invasive species will be removed in the planted areas. Throughout the establishment period and growing process, the City team will be monitoring the plants and will adaptively manage the plants, adjusting techniques and planting as needed. Staff will be trained in appropriate maintenance.*

**Q:** What is the expectation of coverage of the shotcrete for planting? How long will the plants take to grow, and are they suited to the weather conditions on the bluff? How does the City define successful growth?

**A:** *In a steep bluff system similar to the project site, there would be a maximum of 25% plant coverage. The City is aiming for 50-75% plant coverage on the project. These plants are very hardy and drought tolerant; even at the toe of the slope, these plants will receive all the water that they need. They are very responsive plants and are expected to grow rapidly. The morning glory, for example, is expected to grow up to 5 feet within a year. The plants will take 2-3 years to reach maturity. Tree species have been selected at the bottom of the slope to help cover the shotcrete.*

**Q:** What is happening with Phase 1 between Redondo and Loma Avenue? We would like any landscaping there to be consistent with Phase 2.

**A:** *The landscaping plan for Phase 1 will be consistent with Phase 2.*

**Q:** Are there any plans for Bluff Park? Why is the grass brown and dying?

**A:** *Bluff Park will remain as green turf. Unfortunately the irrigation system failed recently and after repeated attempts to repair it, it has been determined that the system is beyond permanent repair. The contractor is currently replacing the system, and one of the City's landscape contractors is helping to temporarily water the park and trees.*

**Q:** In the planted areas at the bottom and the top of the slope, is there anything that can be done to reduce trash?

**A:** *Plants have been chosen in these areas to discourage loitering, camping, and walking.*

**Q:** What is the budget for landscaping? Can Tidelands funds be used for maintenance? Where does funding come from for Bluff Park?

**A:** *The budget for landscaping Area 3 and the completed portion of Area 2 is approximately \$100,000. The Tidelands Operations Fund will be used for maintenance for both Bluff Park and the bluffs themselves. This is a separate fund from the Tidelands Capital Fund. Maintenance will be performed by the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department.*