

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

To: City Council via City Manager

From: Stuart Schillinger, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Request from Open Space and Ecology Committee to hire consultant to assist the Committee in drafting comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Report

Date: October 21, 2013

Purpose:

Ensure the Final Environmental Impact Report appropriately responds to all of the concerns raised by the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

Recommendation:

Direct staff to acquire technical assistance for the Open Space and Ecology Committee in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.

Background:

The Draft Environmental Impact Report was released in June 2013. Prior to the release of the document members of OSEC attended Teri Rivasplata's session on how to respond to a DEIR as having Teri attend an OSEC meeting to specifically discuss how to comment on an EIR. In the month of June the Committee members attended or watched the four presentations put on by Lloyd Zola discussing the Draft EIR. The Open Space and Ecology Committee has been meeting regularly since July to review the document. They have held 9 meetings to date and have scheduled another 5 meetings. One of these meetings had Lloyd come and discuss aspects of the DEIR with the committee members.

Discussion:

Given the amount of time and energy the Committee has spent on this important document they want to make sure their comments are written in an appropriate way which will elicit the most appropriate response. To this end the City has retained two different people to assist the Committee. The first was Cristina Pelifini a senior at San Luis Obispo who had specific course work in EIR drafting. The second is our current employee Natalie Munoz who is working towards her Master's in Environmental Science at USF. However, the committee would like someone who has had more experience in the field to review the comments and make sure they have been written in a way that is appropriate for CEQA review. It does not want good ideas to be lost because the format was incorrect or the question/comment was not phrased correctly.

Based on what the City has spent for other environmental review work, it is anticipated that the cost of obtaining this expertise would be about \$150 an hour. The Committee thinks that an expert in the field could review their comments and make suggestions on wording without meeting with the committee or

reviewing the full DEIR and therefore only needs about 20 hours of time. This would cost approximately \$3,000. No expert has been identified yet, although the Committee has requested Teri Rivasplata and specifically not anyone who authored any part of the DEIR. In order to expedite the process the Committee would like the City Council to okay the expenditure of \$3,000 either from developer (if they agree) or General Fund reserve and direct staff to find an appropriate person.

Fiscal Impact:

If the developer agrees with the expenditure there would be no additional City Funds needed. If the developer does not agree the money could come either from savings within the Open Space Budget (this would not be known until later in the year when the vegetation management plan is approved) or from General Fund Reserves. It is anticipated at the end of 2012/13 there will be at least ten million dollars available in reserve.

Measure of Success

Comments from the committee receive the appropriate consideration in the EIR process.


Stuart Schillinger
Deputy City Manager


Clay Holstine
City Manager