

**MEMORANDUM  
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES  
COUNTY OF PLACER**

To: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Date: **APRIL 12, 2011**

From: **JAMES DURFEE / JOEL SWIFT**

Subject: **HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK EXPANSION, PROJECT NO. 4717**

**ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that your Board approve the Plans and Specifications and authorize staff to solicit bids for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Coon Creek Bridge Project, with an engineer's estimate of probable construction cost of \$914,000.

**BACKGROUND:** Hidden Falls Regional Park (Hidden Falls) is an open space preserve and passive park located between Auburn and Lincoln, which will ultimately total 1200-acres. In 2006, the easterly 221-acres of the park opened to the public, and design work for the remaining 979-acre expansion is nearing completion. This expansion is estimated to cost \$4.3 million and includes a 20-mile trail network, bridges, a waterfall overlook, interpretive signage, riparian enhancement, parking lot expansion, picnic facilities, staff labor and consultant expense.

The construction package before your Board today is for two bridges over Coon Creek, which will provide connections to the northern half of the Hidden Falls for trail use, fire and ambulance response, and parks maintenance vehicles in accordance with the Conditional Use Permit for the project. The westerly bridge will also accommodate full highway loading for large trucks and firefighting vehicles. Both bridges are included in the performance requirements of various grants that comprise the project funding. Civil engineering design and construction management for the bridges is provided through a contract with Carlton Engineering, Inc. A copy of the Bid Documents is available for review at the Department of Facility Services. The engineer's estimate of probable construction cost for the two bridges is \$914,000.

Since 2006, Placer County has been awarded over \$2.5 million in grant funding toward this expansion project. The grant funding partners include Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), Natural Resources Agency, California Conservation Corps and State Parks. Applications for these grant programs identified your Board's prior allocation of \$1 million from the Open Space Trust Fund for Hidden Falls improvements. These funds have served as leverage for the County to be able to secure substantial funding for the project from these grant programs.

Remaining phases of the \$4.3 million Hidden Falls expansion project are estimated to cost \$3.3 million, including \$914,000 for construction of the two bridges. Funding identified for this remaining work includes the \$745,309 balance of the Open Space Fund (Placer Legacy) allocation, approximately \$1.3 million in unreceived grant monies from the Natural Resources Agency, approximately \$250,000 in unreceived grant monies from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), and Park Dedication Fees. SNC is currently reviewing the County's request to redirect this balance to bridge construction, but with the grant expiring on March 1, 2012, it is necessary to begin bidding the bridges at this time.

To address a suspension of Natural Resources Agency funding until resolution of the State budget, bidding documents list the easterly bridge as an additive alternate with the option for a 150-day delayed award of this element. Depending on the status of these grant funds when staff returns to your Board for award of the bridge contract this summer, it may be necessary to adjust the scope of the project.

Agency permit approvals for this bridge project are currently under review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Approval of permits is expected to be complete by the end of the bid process. Completion of the 979-acre Hidden Falls expansion, including the subject bridge construction, is targeted for Fall 2012.

In order to proceed with the Hidden Falls Regional Park Coon Creek Bridge Project, it is recommended that your Board approve the Plans and Specifications and authorize staff to solicit bids.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:** Environmental review for the development of Hidden Falls Regional Park has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2007062084) was certified by the Planning Commission with the approval of Conditional Use Permit PCPA 20090391 on January 28, 2010.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The total project cost for this 979-acre Hidden Falls expansion project is estimated at \$4.3 million. This amount includes elements of the trail network, riparian restoration, parking and amenities, design, project management, bidding, permit fees and contract administration. Also included in this total is construction of the subject bridges, which is estimated to cost \$914,000 including contingency. The allocation from the Open Space Trust Fund, along with fully funded grant contracts and existing funding from Park Dedication Fees in the Capital Project Fund, Project No. 4717, is estimated to be sufficient to complete the 979-acre Hidden Falls expansion project.

AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES: BID DOCUMENTS

JD:JS:MR:JR:RU:AF:BL:SH:DB

CC: COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
PROCUREMENT SERVICES

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