



**Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council**

**APPROVE A CONTRACT TO GEOSYNTEC FOR PROFESSIONAL STORMWATER CONSULTING SERVICES**

(Environmental Programs Manager Doug Krauss)

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**Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Geosyntec Consultants to develop a feasibility study for a dry well project at a not to exceed amount of \$65,000 for a term of two years ending January 13, 2028, with an option to extend one year (**Attachment 1**); and
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the proposed agreements, and approve minor modifications if necessary, with the City Clerk attesting the proposed agreements and subject to approval by the City Attorney.

**Executive Summary:**

This agreement with Geosyntec Consultants would provide for the development of a feasibility study and application for Safe Clean Water (SCW) funding for a project to reduce storm water discharge in the Herondo Watershed area of Hermosa Beach. The project, CIP 438 Stormwater Dry Wells, is required per the City's Watershed Management Plan (WMP), approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board). Failure to complete the project would likely result in significant fines and increased regulatory oversight.

Staff recommends approval of an agreement with Geosyntec as they are uniquely qualified for and familiar with the project and are concurrently working with Redondo Beach on a similar project with which Hermosa Beach can join to improve financial viability. The agreement amount of \$65,000 includes development of the feasibility study and other necessary application materials for SCW funding and will be funded from allocated storm drain funds (**Attachment 1**).

**Background:**

The cities of Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District formed the Beach Cities Group to develop a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to comply with the Water Board's 2012 MS4 Permit.

The Beach Cities Group entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cost share the development of the WMP and a Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Plan (CIMP) in 2013 which was updated in 2023 (**Attachment 2**). The Beach Cities WMP was submitted to the Water Board and was approved by the Executive Officer of the Water Board via a letter dated April 18, 2016 (**Attachment 3**). The Beach Cities Group was directed by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board to begin implementation of the WMP immediately, including construction of identified capital projects.

At its October 27, 2020 meeting, City Council approved a MOU between the Beach Cities Watershed group to update the WMP, for which the City of Redondo Beach served as lead. The MOU included the City's cost towards its share of the EWMP update, as well as the City's contribution to help fund feasibility studies after the cancellation of the Greenbelt Infiltration project in 2019. The Greenbelt Project was designed to accomplish pollutant reduction targets that would have helped all affected agencies meet their respective requirements but was cancelled by City Council due to objections by community members living in the vicinity of the proposed project.

In addition to its many other components, the WMP update identifies regional stormwater projects to ensure the group meets the pollutant reduction goals outlined in the existing WMP. The City of Hermosa Beach and its Beach Cities Group partners have identified alternate projects to achieve stormwater diversion and pollution reductions equivalent to what would have been achieved by the cancelled Hermosa Greenbelt Infiltration Project. The search for alternative projects involved reanalyzing existing concepts and researching new projects throughout the area with the goal of combining multiple smaller projects to achieve compliance goals. The updated WMP identified the installation of dry wells in the southern part of the City to capture sufficient storm water volumes. Additionally, a formal request for a time extension on pollutant reduction goals has been submitted by the Beach Cities Group to the Water Board which, if approved, would extend the City's compliance deadline to 2028. Should this extension be approved, the agencies would be required to expedite completion of their respective identified projects or face significant penalties by the Water Board and possible lawsuits by third parties.

***Past Council Actions***

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
<a href="#"><u>November 26, 2013</u></a>	Approved an MOU to develop a WMP with the Beach Cities WMG
<a href="#"><u>February 9, 2016</u></a>	Approved an MOU to implement a CIMP with the Beach Cities WMG
<a href="#"><u>June 23, 2020</u></a>	Approved an MOU to amend and extend the MOU for monitoring services related to the CIMP

Meeting Date	Description
<a href="#">October 27, 2020</a>	Approved an MOU for WMP implementation with the Beach Cities WMG
<a href="#">June 8, 2021</a>	Approval of the Revised Enhanced Watershed Management Program and Reasonable Assurance Analysis for the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group

**Discussion:**

A Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for a dry well project described in the WMP has been identified in the City’s budget as CIP 438 - “Stormwater Dry Wells” since 2022 to serve as a replacement to the Greenbelt project. Dry wells are more cost effective and logistically manageable than a large regional infiltration project and allow much greater flexibility for siting. For comparison, the capital projects identified in the City’s original EMWP had a total estimated cost range of \$12.5 - 27 million (Greenbelt Infiltration Project and distributed green streets) while this EWMP update estimates \$6.5 – 8 million in capital project costs (for the proposed dry wells and Hermosa Avenue Green Streets projects). Dry wells proposed for this project could potentially provide the storm water capture necessary (in conjunction with projects in our partner cities) to meet the mandates of the MS4 permit.

Geosyntec has completed a pre-feasibility study for the dry well project and identified potential locations east of Pacific Coast Highway (**Attachment 4**). Staff is assessing alternate locations near Bicentennial Park and South Park that may reduce the total number of dry wells and consequently the estimated project cost. The City of Redondo Beach has a similarly-scoped dry well project identified to help it meet its storm water pollutant reduction mandates. Staff from both cities have been in discussion on possible partnership for project design and SCW funding application to be submitted in Spring 2026. Partnering with Redondo Beach would improve cost effectiveness and make the grant application more viable and attractive. Should the City be unsuccessful in securing grant funds, staff is considering a project of reduced scope that will achieve partial pollutant reduction goals and demonstrate a good faith effort towards eventual compliance.

Staff is recommending this agreement as a “sole-source” exception under Section 3.12.070 of the Municipal Code due to Geosyntec’s familiarity with the project and the City’s compliance needs. Additionally, Geosyntec has prepared the pre-feasibility study for the project and is currently working with Redondo Beach on design of their similar dry well project, in anticipation of a partnership with Hermosa Beach. Staff is comfortable that Geosyntec’s cost proposal is fair and reasonable. Staff will work with Geosyntec to host informative presentations for the community and commissions to educate and raise

awareness of the project and its importance. Geosyntec’s cost proposal reflects additional capacity for such outreach efforts. Geosyntec is well-regarded in the storm water field and also performs mandated storm water monitoring for the Beach Cities Group.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The total cost for the dry well feasibility study is not-to-exceed \$65,000.

Staff will use budgeted CIP 438 Stormwater Dry Wells Assessment funds for the study. This contract will position the City to be able to apply for grant funds for the eventual project construction which is currently estimated to be between \$4-8 million.

<b>Agreement Request</b>		
<b>Request Amount</b>	<b>FY 2025-26 Budget Dept. Account #</b>	<b>Total Contract Amount</b>
\$65,000	149-8438-4201	Not-to-exceed \$65,000

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Professional Services Agreement
2. Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Plan MOU
3. Watershed Management Plan
4. Draft Pre-Feasibility Report

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Douglas Krauss, Environmental Programs Manager

**Concur:** Joseph SanClemente, Public Works Director

**Noted for Fiscal Impact:** Henry Chao, Finance Manager

**Concur:** Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

**Legal Review:** Jason Balitmore, Interim City Attorney

**Approved:** Steve Napolitano, City Manager