



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITIES OF TORRANCE, HERMOSA BEACH, MANHATTAN BEACH, AND REDONDO BEACH FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE BEACH CITIES GREEN STREETS PROJECT FOR THE BEACH CITIES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP

(Environmental Programs Manager Douglas Krauss)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Torrance, the City of Hermosa Beach, the City of Manhattan Beach, and the City of Redondo Beach for Implementation of the Beach Cities Green Streets Project for the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group (**Attachment 1**);
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement (**Attachment 2**); and
3. Adopt a resolution approving construction of the Hermosa Avenue Green Street project pursuant to Government Code Section 830.6 and establishing a project payment account (**Attachment 5**).

Executive Summary:

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would establish proportional responsibility for the construction and implementation of the Beach Cities Green Streets Project in Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach utilizing grant funds, as well as necessary contributions from the individual agencies.

Hermosa Beach's portion of this project, the Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 164 and Storm Drain Improvements (CIP 417), would improve the area near Hermosa Avenue between Herondo Street and 6th Street to include green street elements that would help reduce pollution from storm water runoff. Approval would allow Hermosa Beach to utilize the grant funds to help construct this important project aimed at reducing bacteria water quality exceedances from Hermosa Beach and the Herondo Drain in compliance with State storm water regulations.

Background:

The cities of Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District formed the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group (WMG) to develop an Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) to comply with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board)

2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits, the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria (SMBBB) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Santa Monica Bay Toxics TMDL. The Beach Cities EWMP was submitted to the Regional Board on February 9, 2016 and was approved by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board via a letter dated April 18, 2016. The WMG was directed by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board to begin implementation of the EWMP immediately, including construction of identified capital projects. The EWMP was updated in 2021 to reflect the new NPDES permit (**Attachment 3**).

Complementary to regional storm water structural projects, green infrastructure projects and programs are critical to achieve water quality compliance, as detailed in the EWMP. Green Streets are typically smaller local control measures in available rights-of-way and augment regional structural projects to achieve water quality objectives. The Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project was identified in the 2016 EWMP and the 2021 update as a distributed structural project to receive and treat dry-weather and some stormwater runoff from an approximately 47-acre drainage area.

In 2018, the City of Hermosa Beach applied for a Proposition 1 grant through the Ocean Protection Council to fund a Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project. That grant application was unsuccessful and this joint effort with the WMG to utilize Prop 12 and SCW funding for the Beach Cities Green Street Project is a chance to help complete this important project. At its March 10, 2020 meeting, City Council approved an MOU between the watershed agencies to complete project design (**Attachment 4**). Project design was completed in Fall of 2024.

The City of Torrance, in partnership with the other cities in the WMG, applied for and was successful in receiving a Proposition 12 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant of \$2 million from the Coastal Conservancy in February 2018 and a grant from the Safe, Clean Water (SCW) Regional Infrastructure Program for \$5,366,953 in March 2020. These grants will help fund the Beach Cities Green Street Project, which includes the Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project, as well as green street projects identified for two sites in Manhattan Beach, five sites in Redondo Beach, and five sites in Torrance. A portion of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant was used to fund the design of the project. The balance will help fund construction of the project.

The portion of the project in Hermosa Beach, the Hermosa Avenue Green Street Project, is an important project for reducing bacteria water quality exceedances from Hermosa Beach and the Herondo Drain. The Herondo Drain is the largest storm drain system within the Beach Cities EWMP that discharges directly to Santa Monica Bay. Located at the southern border of the City of Hermosa Beach, it drains over 3,000 acres of area throughout Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and Manhattan Beach, and is a source of elevated bacteria levels directly off-shore. This drainage area includes 287

acres of Hermosa Beach and the proposed project would capture runoff from 47 acres otherwise not captured for treatment.

Hermosa Beach, and its WMG partners, sought alternate projects to achieve storm water diversion and pollutant reductions equivalent to what would have been achieved by the abandoned Hermosa Greenbelt Infiltration Project (Greenbelt Project). The search for alternative projects involves reanalyzing existing concepts and exploring new projects throughout the region with the possibility of combining multiple smaller projects to achieve compliance goals. The City, with assistance from its watershed group partners, identified distributed drywells in the vicinity of Pacific Coast Highway as the most viable project to help meet these diversion goals. Staff is working separately on the feasibility of the proposed dry well project and potential funding opportunities.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
June 23, 2015	Authorized submission of the draft EWMP to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Adopt Los Angeles County Program Environmental Impact Report
February 13, 2018	Adopted Resolution Approving Application for Prop 1 Grants Funds through California Ocean Protection Council
March 10, 2020	Approved MOU for Green Streets Project and Grant Funding
October 27, 2020	Approved MOU for EWMP Update

Discussion:

The Hermosa Avenue Green Street project would remove 5,115 linear feet of gutters in the project area and replace them with permeable concrete gutters. Additionally, 39 King Palm trees would be planted in the medians on Hermosa Avenue, between Herondo Street and 6th Street, replacing existing landscaping. Per the terms of the Coastal Conservancy grant, participating agencies are required to plant 200 trees within the project areas. These green street elements would serve to improve storm drainage, reduce pollutants, and simultaneously help beautify the southern end of Hermosa Avenue. The project area, including the southern end of Beach Drive, is historically prone to flooding. The proposed project would help reduce flooding in the area resulting from storm events.

If approved, the City of Torrance would serve as the lead agency on the entire Beach Cities Green Streets Project. By approving the proposed resolution, and entering into the MOU, the parties agree to:

- Work collaboratively to implement construction of the project; and

- Each be responsible for any additional funds, beyond the grant funding, necessary to complete the project.

The term of the proposed MOU is five years to allow for full project completion. The total cost for construction of all the agencies' projects is estimated to be \$8,388,716, with the Hermosa Avenue Green Streets portion estimated at \$1,029,659. Hermosa Beach's local match is estimated at \$188,286 which was budgeted in CIP 164 and CIP 417. The project costs include three years of post-construction stormwater monitoring.

Should the construction bids exceed the engineer's estimate, the MOU requires the agencies to seek additional funds in a timely manner. The MOU also allows each agency to withdraw from the agreement before contract award without penalty if they cannot secure the necessary funds. The City of Torrance would require all necessary funds be secured prior to award of the construction contract. The bid documents are structured to allow the project to potentially move forward should any agency terminate its involvement before award. Upon receipt of signed MOUs from each agency, the City of Torrance anticipates advertising for construction bids in January 2025.

Approval of the proposed MOU and completion of the Hermosa Avenue Green Street project would help the City accomplish significant water quality improvements, thereby demonstrating to the Regional Board the City's continued commitment to meeting its pollution reduction mandates. The project would also provide an opportunity for the City to work successfully with its neighboring agencies in the WMG and set a precedent for future cooperation necessary for the group to accomplish other joint projects (e.g., the proposed Distributed Dry Well project CIP 438) and meet its final water quality goals. Lastly, this project would serve the dual benefit of rehabilitating and enhancing an important gateway to the City and creating an impactful statement of commitment to sustainability for residents and visitors alike.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendations have been evaluated for their consistency with the City's General Plan. Relevant Policies are listed below:

Infrastructure Element

Goal 5. The stormwater management system is safe, sanitary, and environmentally and fiscally sustainable.

Policies:

- **5.1 Integration of stormwater best practices.** Integrate stormwater infiltration best practices when initiating streetscape redevelopment or public facility improvement projects.
- **5.8 Low impact development.** Require new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate low impact development (LID) techniques in project

designs, including but not limited to on-site drainage improvements using native vegetation to capture and clean stormwater runoff and minimize impervious surfaces.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved, the City would use Fiscal Year 2024–2025 budgeted CIP 164 Hermosa Avenue Green Street and CIP 417 Storm Drain Improvements project funds for the Beach Cities Green Street Project required match and project contingency.

Per the engineer’s estimate of construction total costs, the City of Hermosa Beach’s required match would be \$188,286. Actual costs associated with construction of the project would be determined after the project is bid and a contractor secured. The City would be responsible for its share of funds required for construction that exceeds the grant funding amount. Should the actual costs exceed the estimated local match, contingency funds of \$160,000 would be used from the above referenced CIP’s for a total estimated cost of \$348,286. The City would also retain the ability to withdraw from the project without penalty if construction were to exceed the amount budgeted.

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution - MOU
2. Draft Memorandum of Understanding
3. Beach Cities EWMP 2021
4. 2020 Memorandum of Understanding for Design
5. Draft Resolution - Construction and Account
6. Project Plans

Respectfully Submitted by: Douglas Krauss, Environmental Program Manager

Concur: Joe SanClemente, Public Works Director

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Pat Donegan, City Attorney

Reviewed by: Angela Crespi, Deputy City Manager

Approved: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager