



STAFF REPORT

DATE: MARCH 26, 2024

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: DAVID WAHBA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS POLICY DEVELOPMENT SESSION (PDS) TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

This memorandum provides a summary of the Public Works Department's Policy Development Session (PDS) topics for discussion.

Public Works Policy Items for Discussion

Traffic Study (Palos Verdes Drive North (PVDN))

At the February 22, 2024, Traffic and Safety Committee meeting, the Committee and staff discussed traffic delays on PVDN, particularly for PM peak hours going eastbound from Crenshaw Blvd. to Rolling Hills Rd. While the signal timing at the various intersections on PVDN is routinely assessed, the Committee felt that the signal timing at Rolling Hills Rd. and PVDN should be re-evaluated. Also, the PVDN at Dapplegray School (London Ln.) intersection enhancement project, that will be presented again to the City Council in April, if approved, will also address peak traffic demand on PVDN. Willdan staff will attend the PDS meeting to further discuss potential traffic enhancements on PVDN.

George F Canyon Nature Center Replacement Project

This past year, staff has been working with our team of consultants, who completed the architectural, structural, and engineering plans (including Plan Check review by Willdan Engineering) for the Nature Center project. The City Council also recently approved a contract with Transtech Engineers to assist staff in project bidding and for construction management services. Staff anticipates placing this project out to bid in April and the City Council awarding a bid and construction commencing this summer.

Funding for this project will be through various grants, private donations, and Park Facilities Fees. The cost to construct this project has been estimated at \$3M. More information on project costs and available funding sources will become available when the project bids are received this summer.

Stormwater Projects Update – From McGowan Consulting LLC

McGowan Consulting LLC continues to provide storm water program consulting services. Since the completion of the revised Palos Verdes Peninsula Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) in June 2021, planning for stormwater capital projects continue to be focused on addressing pollutant contributions to water quality impairments in the Machado Lake and Los Angeles Harbor watersheds. The following is a summary of projects underway to meet the City's obligations for stormwater capture for compliance with those pollutant limitations. Kathleen McGowan will be present at the PDS meeting to answer questions and provide additional information.

1. Dry Well Project

Design of this project is complete, and staff has made the decision to bifurcate the project into two phases to expedite construction of the portion of the project sited in the Machado Lake Watershed for two critical key reasons: 1) to address current regulatory pressure and 2) to address the failing storm drain on Palos Verdes Drive East as a logical element essential for proper function of the completed dry well system. The City's Municipal Safe Clean Water funds (Measure W local return) are being used for design and engineering services for the project, while the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will fund the dry well construction and the storm drain rehabilitation/replacement.

2. Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project

The Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project (TASBP) is currently in design via a prior funding award by the Regional Safe Clean Water Program (Measure W regional funds). On July 31, 2023, the Peninsula Watershed Management Group and the City of Torrance jointly applied for \$19.2M in construction funding for the project from the Regional Safe Clean Water (Regional SCW) Program. The project received a qualifying score from the SCW Technical Scoring Committee in November 2023, and it was then presented to the South Santa Monica Bay Watershed Area Steering Committee on December 20, 2023. The funding is competitive and limited by prior funding commitments to other regional projects so, if the project is funded, it will need to be disbursed over several years which will delay the construction schedule. A funding decision by the committee is expected before June 2024.

3. Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Benefit Flow Diversion – Feasibility Study

A feasibility study was completed in July 2023 for a third project, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-benefit Flow Diversion Project, which is a possible backup project for the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project. This project concept would divert baseline flows (dry weather flows) associated with rising groundwater and urban runoff from the Peninsula into a below-ground storage chamber on the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall property for irrigation use. The preliminary cost estimate for this project was \$7M. Given that it is not as cost effective nor can it fully address compliance with the Machado Lake

water quality limitations as would the Torrance Airport Project, the project concept has been placed on hold pending the outcome of the group's pursuit of construction funding for the Torrance Airport Stormwater Basin Project.

Public Works Projects Update (Including Grants)

Storm Drain Repair Program

In 2017, a multi-year storm drain repair program was prepared to re-line and/or repair a total of 45 storm drain lines. The cost of the entire project was estimated at about \$1.8M to complete. Since 2017, the City has completed most of the “high priority” storm drain lines that were set up for re-lining and repair in “Year One.” However, staff ran into a lot of unforeseen circumstances with the unknown condition of several lines, access issues, and difficulties with the contractor, and have not yet completed the remaining repairs. In addition, over the last several years, the City had unanticipated storm drain line problems on Hawthorne Blvd., and in the Clubview and PVDE areas that were not foreseen as part of this project, but in need of “emergency repairs.”

After making numerous unanticipated repairs, staff continues to work with Willdan on prioritizing the remaining storm drains that need to be re-lined and/or repaired from the 2017 report. With the most recent storms, the storm drain line in the bridle trail on the west side of PVDE by the Rolling Hills Country Club golf course has continued to fail (with three new sinkholes) and the trail has been closed again until which time this entire line can be repaired. The City Council awarded a contract to Geosyntec Engineering at its February 22 meeting to develop plans for the repair of this line in conjunction with the Bridlewood Circle dry well project as discussed above. Staff plans to solicit bids for this storm drain repair project and the dry well project this spring and will bring back an award of contract for the Council’s consideration and approval this summer. In addition to repairing the storm drain line on PVDE, Willdan will be providing a bid package, including engineered specifications, for the other storm drain line repairs from the 2017 report that should be considered as a priority as well.

Staff plans to use the balance of the ARPA funds (estimated at \$1,750,000) to complete these storm drain repairs and for the dry well project at Bridlewood Circle. The Saddle Rd. dry well project will most likely be deferred to FY 2025-26 as funding permits.

Rolling Hills Road Redevelopment Project

The redevelopment plans for Rolling Hills Road from Palos Verdes Drive North to the northern boundary with Torrance are underway. Roadway realignment will include the installation of concrete rolled curbs and gutters and drainage improvements, as well as green street features consistent with the requirements of the Municipal Stormwater Permit to improve stormwater runoff quality through reduced sediment and pollutant transport to Machado Lake. Multiple benefits of the project include, but are not limited to, improved pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle safety, connectivity to local bicycle routes, enhanced multi-modal transportation and recreational opportunities.

In 2022, the City was awarded a Measure M grant to complete the engineering plans for the roadway improvements (grant to cover engineering plans at \$229,450). Willdan is nearing completion of the engineered plans and the CEQA work for the Project is also underway. Once the plans are completed this year, staff will present them to the City Council for approval and staff will apply for more funding with Metro to aid in the future construction costs of this project.

Lastly, staff has been working with the City of Rolling Hills, who has a project in the queue to install a sanitary sewer line from Portuguese Bend Dr. down Rolling Hills Rd. to the intersection of Palomino Lane, which will involve trenching and patching of the roadway from PVDN, north of the intersection. This project will require the resurfacing of this portion of the roadway, which will be from roadway edge to edge, which will aid in some interim upkeep of this roadway. Staff is not sure of the timing of this project, but it is expected to go out to bid soon and be completed prior to our project.

Street Re-surfacing & Sidewalk Repair Projects

Staff is working with Willdan to prepare the engineering specifications for next fiscal year's street resurfacing project on Deep Valley Drive, Roxcove Drive, Dry Bank Drive, and Indian Peak Road.

This year's annual sidewalk repair project (carried out by Los Angeles County Public Works) involves replacement of sections of sidewalks, driveway aprons, and curb and gutters in the Rollingwood Neighborhood, specifically Kingspine Road, and sidewalks on the east side of Highridge Rd. This project will commence soon and be completed by the end of June.

Dapplegray School and PVDN Intersection Improvements

Staff continues to work with Willdan to present plans for roadway improvements located at Palos Verdes Drive North and the Dapplegray School intersection (London Lane). This project was presented to the Council last year and is being funded by a \$2.88M dollar grant awarded to the City in 2020 by a Measure M subregional grant. Staff plans to make another presentation of this project to the Council in April, which will address the public's concerns and questions from that first meeting. If approved, bids for the project will be solicited this summer or fall, with construction taking place over the next two years to best minimize the impacts of traffic on PVDN.

Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) & Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grants

Willdan completed the City's grant-funded Local Roadway Safety Plan (LRSP) last year and the city was awarded three Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (Caltrans) grants totaling \$1.5M. The LRSP was presented to The Traffic and Safety Committee and City Council for adoption last year. The HSIP grants are for guardrail replacement/upgrades city-wide (\$1M); pedestrian improvements on Rolling Hills Rd.

(\$250k); and, pedestrian improvements on Deep Valley and Drybank Drives (\$250k). The first project on Deep Valley and Drybank Drives will be carried out in conjunction with the repaving project as discussed above. The guardrail and Rolling Hills Road grant projects will be carried out over the next two fiscal years.

Founders Park

As directed by the Council last summer, staff revised the project plans and specifications for Founders Park into two phases. Phase One, for the park's development of landscaping, pathways, drainage, and fencing was approved by the City Council on March 12. Phase Two for the play equipment will be bid separately, and it is anticipated that it will be installed this summer/fall after the completion of Phase One.

Peter Weber Equestrian Center (PWEC) Restrooms

Last year, Council approved a contract with CXT Inc. to provide a prefabricated restroom building at the Peter Weber Equestrian Center. The building has been completed and ready for delivery; however, staff continues to work with the permitting requirements of the LA County Department of Public Health (Environmental Health), who has oversight of the land uses on closed landfill sites in LA County. Staff is hopeful that the restroom building will be installed by this summer.

Peartree Lane Utilities and Sewer Line Work

Staff continues to provide support and coordination with the public utility companies (including LA County Sewer Maintenance Division) that were impacted as a result of the Peartree Lane land movement incident last July. To date, public utilities have been modified/re-routed to accommodate the impacted areas of 12 red-tagged and five yellow-tagged homes on Peartree Lane. This month, LA County Public Works completed a sewer realignment on Country Lane to bypass the sewer line on Peartree Lane that serves 200+ homes upstream. Staff continues to work with the two neighborhood HOAs, utility companies and LA County Public Works on a sewer realignment to put the five yellow-tagged homes back on sewer service. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by this summer.