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DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
  
ENGINEERING DIVISION

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CALIFORNIA

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THOMAS M. FINLEY  
ENGINEERING DIVISION  
MANAGER

November 5, 1986

Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members In Session:

SUBJECT: Laguna Creek Assessment District

SUMMARY

The Laguna Creek Assessment District was scheduled for advertising and construction in the summer of 1986. The environmental and Federal permit issues have delayed the project. Assessment district formation and construction are not anticipated until the summer of 1987.

BACKGROUND

Work on the Laguna Creek Assessment District began in the spring of 1985. Design and concepts were presented to Council and to the County for consideration and approval. Last spring final contract drawings were nearing completion and a Federal 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers was requested. The issue of seasonal wetlands and vernal pools became a primary concern of Federal EPA staff.

The issues of vernal pools and seasonal wetlands were a new environmental concern for the project. This new environmental concern was based upon additional emphasis with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency on the issue of vernal pools and seasonal wetlands. Negotiations on these issues with the EPA, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Department of Fish and Game effectively halted design work on the project in June, 1986.

In the ensuing months, City Public Works and Planning staff, working together with Raymond Vail and Associates, and the property owners, have evaluated the problems involved and developed an alternative approach. The property owners, with City concurrence, will retain John Zentner, LSA, a San Francisco firm, to evaluate the magnitude of the seasonal wetlands and vernal pools, and to develop mitigation measures satisfactory to the Corps of Engineers, and to assist Raymond Vail and Associates in developing mitigation measures in response to these concerns. LSA will also prepare a 404(B)(1) alternatives site analysis as required by EPA regulations. A hydrological impact report as required by the Corps of Engineers will also be prepared.

After discussion with the Corps of Engineers staff, it is believed that with the additional information, sufficient mitigation can be developed which will allow this project to proceed into construction in the summer of 1987. The establishment of a schedule is contingent upon the successful completion of key tasks by the consultants and City staff in the next 10-12 weeks. It is currently believed the district can proceed after further, minor revisions to the construction drawings.

FINANCIAL

The consultants estimate that it will cost an additional \$100,000 to move the project through the Federal permitting, environmental evaluation, and engineering plan revision phases. The property owners are evaluating this cost and are expected to provide the additional funds required.

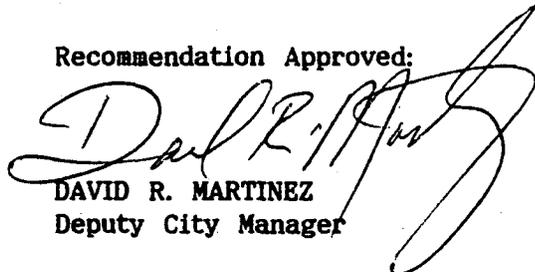
RECOMMENDATION

No action is required at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

  
for THOMAS M. FINLEY  
Engineering Division Manager

Recommendation Approved:

  
DAVID R. MARTINEZ  
Deputy City Manager

Approved:

  
MELVIN H. JOHNSON  
Director of Public Works

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November 5, 1986  
District No. 7