

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

March 29, 2012

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT RETAINER**

Project No. 08-157-02

Project Manager: Joan Cardellino

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to augment an existing contract for landscape architecture services by \$60,000 for the purpose of assisting in the planning of projects in Southern California.

**LOCATION:** South Coast Region

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Public Access

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**EXHIBITS**

N/A

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31111 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement to Bionic, a landscape architecture firm, of an amount not to exceed sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) to augment a previously approved contract in the amount of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of providing landscape architectural services on an as-needed basis for Conservancy projects. Prior to initiating work on any individual project, Contractor shall obtain written approval from Conservancy staff authorizing the scope and budget for that project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the current Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.
  2. The proposed authorization is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31111, which authorizes the Conservancy to undertake project planning and feasibility studies and to assist projects that carry out the objectives of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation.”
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**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends authorization to augment an existing contract for landscape architecture services by \$60,000 for the purpose of assisting the Conservancy in preparing planning concepts and preliminary cost estimates for public coastal access projects in Southern California. The landscape architecture firm Bionic was initially selected under a competitive contacting process under Government Code Sections 4525 et seq., and retained to provide landscape architecture services on an as-needed basis to assist the Conservancy in planning, developing and assessing projects. Under the existing contract, Bionic has been providing services for a number of Conservancy public access projects, primarily in Malibu. As staff engage in the process of pre-project analysis, landscape architectural services are often critical to assessing the feasibility of siting an accessway in a particular location; determining the optimal mix of facilities, such as a stairway, viewing deck and other visitor amenities; identifying potential construction and engineering issues; and providing preliminary cost estimates. Since 2009 Bionic has assisted Conservancy staff with projects in Malibu and one in northern Ventura County.

The initial contract with Bionic was authorized by the Executive Officer, under the authority delegated to him by the Conservancy to enter into contracts up to \$200,000 for technical and other services needed to develop and implement Conservancy projects and programs. Staff has an immediate need for additional landscape architectural services for ongoing access projects. While there is some amount of funding remaining in the Bionic contract, additional funding is required beyond the already encumbered \$200,000 to complete planning efforts underway. Conservancy authorization is needed to augment the existing agreement beyond \$200,000. Under the terms of the existing contract, the parties agreed that the contract might be amended, if additional funding were obtained. The additional funding that staff proposes to add to the contract is not more than 30% of the original amount.

Since entering into a contract with the Conservancy in 2009, Bionic has worked on the following projects:

- LaCosta Beach (Malibu) site design—public access facilities on property owned by the Conservancy
- Las Flores Beach (Malibu) access easement feasibility—design concepts for an encroached-upon easement held by the Conservancy
- Mussel Shoals (Ventura)—public beach access design and park landscaping
- Huntington Harbor (Huntington Beach) – concept designs and feasibility for public access on easements within the Harbor

In 2008 staff issued a Request for Qualifications for landscape architectural services. Five firms were interviewed by a staff panel and Bionic was selected. The firm's work to-date has been very satisfactory and a one-time augmentation of the existing contract is allowable under the the agreement

**Site Description:** Coastal locations throughout the South Coast region.

**PROJECT FINANCING**

<b>Coastal Conservancy (Initial Funding)</b>	\$200,000
<b>Coastal Conservancy (Proposed Augmentation)</b>	<u>60,000</u>
Total	\$260,000

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds for the proposed contract augmentation is Proposition 40, the “California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002”. Proposition 40 funds may be used for development of land resources in accordance with the provisions of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. The proposed project serves to assist in the development of land-based public access and, as discussed in the section found immediately below, the project is consistent with Chapter 4.5 of Division 21.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed project is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31111, which permits the Conservancy to fund and undertake planning and feasibility studies to develop and carry out projects that implement Division. In addition, under various provisions of Division 21, the Conservancy is authorized to assist in the implementation of the objectives of Division 21, including, for example, to provide assistance needed to implement a system of public accessways to and along the coast. (See Section 31400.3).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2007 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

Consistent with **Goal 2, Objective 2A** of the Conservancy’s 2007 Strategic Plan, the proposed project will develop plans to create or improve waterfront projects.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

N/A

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

Awarding a contract for the purposes of preparing planning documentation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15262, which applies to feasibility or planning studies. Upon authorization, staff will file a Notice of Exemption.