

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-130

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARINA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH EMC PLANNING GROUP, INC. TO PREPARE PLANS, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DOCUMENTS, AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AMENITIES AND COASTAL TRAIL AT FORT ORD DUNES STATE PARK, NOT TO EXCEED \$800,000.00, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE CITY ATTORNEY.

WHEREAS, On September 28, 2023, City staff met with representatives from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) and toured the four primary beach access points in Marina: Fort Ord Dunes State Park, Lake Drive and Lake Court, Marina State Beach, and North Marina Beach at Dunes Drive; and

WHEREAS, SCC concluded that Marina could qualify for these grants and encouraged City staff to apply for an SCC grant with a focus on beach access improvements at the Fort Ord Dunes State Park; and

WHEREAS, On December 19, 2023, City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with EMC Planning Group, Inc. for the preparation of the grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy for funding coastal access trail improvements at the Fort Ord Dunes State Park; and

WHEREAS, On April 16, 2024, City Council passed Resolution 2024-34, approving the grant of funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail – Fort Ord Dunes State Park access improvements; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 2024, the City of Marina was awarded \$800,000. In funding from the SCC to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for improvements to the amenities and coastal trail at Fort Ord Dunes State Park; and

WHEREAS, On October 4, 2024, SCC approved the Work Program developed by EMC Planning Group, Inc. for the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail – Fort Ord Dunes State Park Access Improvement project; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Marina that does hereby:

1. Authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with EMC Planning Group, Inc. to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for the improvements to the amenities and coastal trail at Fort Ord Dunes State Park, not to exceed \$800,000.00, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Marina at a regular meeting duly held on the 19th day of November 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: McAdams, McCarthy, Biala, Visscher, Delgado

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

Bruce C. Delgado, Mayor

ATTEST:

Anita Sharp, Deputy City Clerk

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Marina City Council

City Council Meeting
of November 19, 2024

**CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER ADOPTING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-,
AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH EMC PLANNING GROUP, INC. TO PREPARE
PLANS, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW DOCUMENTS, AND PERMIT
APPLICATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AMENITIES AND
COASTAL TRAIL AT FORT ORD DUNES STATE PARK, NOT TO
EXCEED \$800,000.00, SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE
CITY ATTORNEY.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council consider:

1. Adopting Resolution No. 2024-, authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with EMC Planning Group, Inc. to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for the improvements to the amenities and coastal trail at Fort Ord Dunes State Park, not to exceed \$800,000.00, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

BACKGROUND:

In early 2023 staff became aware of the possible grants available from the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for improving access to the coast and beaches.

On September 28, 2023, City staff met with representatives from the SCC and toured the four primary beach access points in Marina: Fort Ord Dunes State Park, Lake Drive and Lake Court, Marina State Beach, and North Marina Beach at Dunes Drive.

SCC concluded that Marina could qualify for these grants and encouraged City staff to apply for an SCC grant with a focus on beach access improvements at the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. The Fort Ord Dunes State Park location provides the only coastal access point in the southern portion of the City, including for students at California State University Monterey Bay, and is the only site that does not require visitors to walk over extended stretches of unimproved sandy trails and over steep dunes to access the beach. The site's large parking lot also serves as a trailhead for pedestrians and cyclists accessing the California Coastal Trail.

On December 19, 2023, City Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with EMC Planning Group, Inc. for the preparation of the grant application to the California Coastal Conservancy for funding coastal access trail improvements at the Fort Ord Dunes State Park.

On April 16, 2024, City Council passed Resolution 2024-34, accepting the grant of funds from the State Coastal Conservancy for the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail – Fort Ord Dunes State Park access improvements.

On June 6, 2024, the City of Marina was awarded \$800,000 in funding from the SCC to prepare plans, environmental review documents, and permit applications for improvements to the amenities and coastal trail at Fort Ord Dunes State Park.

On October 4, 2024, SCC approved the Work Program developed by EMC Planning Group, Inc. for the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail – Fort Ord Dunes State Park Access Improvement project.

ANALYSIS:

While the City of Marina has four coastal access points, all four have difficult terrain due to the shifting sand and topography of the dunes. The result is that many Marina residents and visitors must travel to a neighboring city to enjoy the beach.

The City of Marina community will benefit from this planning project by designing trail improvements to enhance access to the coast for residents, visitors from the region, local tribes, CSUMB students and specifically, those with mobility challenges. In short, improving coastal access in Marina will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

EMC Planning Group, Inc. has been critical in advancing the City's aspiration to improve coastal access for residents and visitors by preparing the pre-application, application, and work program which were all approved by the SCC.

The approved work program includes the following primary elements and will include evaluations of opportunities to provide accessible access improvements wherever feasible:

- Develop and implement community and tribal engagement plans to ensure community members, including tribes, students, and disadvantaged community members have a voice throughout the planning process in the scope and design of the proposed improvements.
- Parking lot and trailhead circulation improvements.
- Existing beach trail improvements and stormwater run-off improvements.
 - Evaluating adding steps to trailhead or slightly re-routing trailhead south, with a gentler slope.
- Interpretive and wayfinding signage.
- Twin vault restrooms.
- Existing viewing area improvements (near restroom) and new viewing platform and day-use area (above beach trailhead) (e.g. shade structure, seat wall, tables, bike racks and bike repair station).
- Dumpster enclosure.

Entering into this agreement, allows EMC Planning Group, Inc. to complete the work program approved by SCC.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This project will be funded by the SCC grant of \$800,000.00.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The presentation and agreement are not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Article 20 Section 15378 and under General Rule Article 5 Section 15061.

CONCLUSION:

This request is submitted to the City Council for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Willer, Ed.D.
Recreation & Cultural
Services Director
City of Marina

REVIEW/CONCUR

Layne P. Long
City Manager
City of Marina