## BOARD MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2022<br>TO: $\quad$ SCV Water Board of Directors<br>FROM: Matthew S. Dickens, MPA Mhr<br>Sustainability Manager<br>SUBJECT: Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park

## SUMMARY

This is an updated staff report to the version submitted to the SCV Water - Water Resources and Watershed Committee in September and November 2022. During the meetings, members of the Committee posited questions pertaining to the cost, scope, and added value of the Bridgeport Pocket Park project. Additionally, staff has prepared a presentation which incorporates information from both presentations on the project's various components as well as the inquiries provided by the Committee and public during the September and November 2022 Committee meetings.

Consistent with the 2019 SCV Water Strategic Plan and in support of the Agency's water conservation engagement, education, and programmatic efforts, staff have developed plans for a water efficient demonstration garden at Bridgeport Pocket Park. Following the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, staff received four (4) proposals for park construction and staff have recognized the lowest-cost bid. Based on these findings, staff recommends that the SCV Water Board of Directors authorize the General Manger to execute a construction contract for the Bridgeport Pocket Park. The Water Resources and Watershed Committee agreed with staff's recommendation via consensus.

## DISCUSSION

Following the launch of SCV Water, the Agency directed conservation staff to evaluate refurbishment of the Conservatory Garden and determine ways and means to enhance all landscape assets to improve public awareness, education, and engagement in various conservation programs. Additionally, during the Agency's evaluation of the Lawn Replacement Program, staff conducted a customer survey and received $\sim 1,500$ responses identifying resource needs including demonstration gardens and assistance with landscape design. With this guidance, conservation staff led a cross-organizational effort to better understand the Agency's landscape assets, conservation program needs, and potential collaborative partnerships. The three-pronged strategy included the transformation of the Conservatory Garden at Rio Vista to enhance the education experience, building "pocket parks" throughout the community to demonstrate smart landscape design and irrigation practices, and to partner with other local agencies to incorporate such facilities in high-traffic areas to increase public consumption. In 2019, after a review of available locations, SCV Water and the City of Santa Clarita (City) entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to, among other items, construct a demonstration garden at Bridgeport Park. Bridgeport Pocket Park (BPP) would utilize an area within the larger park where the City had turned off irrigation during the 2011-2017 drought. BPP
is located at 23521 Bridgeport Lane and is $\sim 16,200$ square feet. A picture of the BPP location is provided below (see Figure 1).


Figure 1. Bridgeport Pocket Park Location

During the design phase, the design team incorporated a collaborative process that included SCV Water staff (Conservation, Engineering, GIS), City staff, local landscape designers, an engineering firm, and an irrigation system consultant. The goal of the collaborative design process was to provide visitors with a range of landscape designs, sustainability features (rain gardens, mulching), plant pallets (California natives, low water-using plants), and high-efficiency irrigation (HE nozzles, drip irrigation) technologies that are commonly available to residents in the valley. Additionally, BPP will include site and plant signage, an information kiosk, walking paths, park benches, and a permeable concrete pad for maintenance vehicles and to support additional programming capabilities (EV, Tiny Home, Vendors). The design process was completed in 2021 and the BPP plans are included as an attachment (Attachment 1).

In August 2022, the Conservation Team, with support from Engineering, submitted the completed design plan for RFP using PlanetBids. On September 2, 2022, SCV Water received proposals from four (4) firms for BPP construction. The table on the following page notes the firms that responded to the RFP and their cost proposals respectively.

Table 1. SCV Water - Bridgeport Pocket Park Construction RFP Responses

| Firm | C.S. Legacy <br> Construction, <br> Inc. | United <br>  <br> Landscape, Inc. | R.C. Beker and <br> Son, Inc. | Marina <br> Landscape, Inc. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Cost Proposal | $\$ 373,147.60$ | $\$ 389,428.36$ | $\$ 390,111.97$ | $\$ 426,395.00$ |
| Cost per SF | $\$ 23.32$ | $\$ 24.34$ | $\$ 24.38$ | $\$ 26.65$ |

During the Water Resources and Watershed Committee's September 14, 2022, meeting, staff provided a staff report and presentation detailing the Bridgeport Pocket Park project including the proposals and cost estimates received through the RFP process. Members of the committee requested information pertaining to the design process, size of the project area, scope of work, and project costs (Attachment 2). Following the meeting, staff provided project materials and responses to specific inquiries including details of the design scope, design process, bid documents, and has updated the presentation slide deck for the Committee's review at its November 9, 2022, meeting.

During the Water Resources and Watershed Committee's November 9, 2022, meeting, Committee members provided comments and feedback to staff regarding general support, opportunities for improvement, and budgeting and cost concerns. Additionally, staff addressed public comments received during the discussion pertaining to water usage at the site and the projects benefit to the Agency's water conservation program. Staff responded to these concerns by noting the pocket parks low-water using plant palette coupled with High-Efficiency irrigation uses $40-60 \%$ less water than turfgrass. Further, the pocket park will provide inspiration and demonstration to residential and commercial customers seeking to transform their landscapes, but who are unaware of available practices or design styles. The Water Resources and Watershed Committee, via consensus, agreed with staff's recommendation to authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park. The Committee requested the item be presented to the SCV Water Board of Directors at the November 15, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

BPP funding for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 was estimated at $\$ 230,000$. The lowest bid for BPP construction is $\$ 373,147.60$, which is $\$ 143,147.60$ above the current budgeted amount. Expenses beyond the budgeted amount will require a transfer of available funds from another project. Budget from the Conservatory Garden and Education Experience for FY 2022/2023 would be available for the BPP.

## STATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S)

Goal A. Customer/Community: Implement policies supporting social, quality of life, and environmental values of the community.

Strategy A. 2 Proactively communicate with and engage our community on water matters of importance to the region positioning SCV Water as a leading resource and reliable authority on water issues.
A.2.6 Raise awareness of and demand for conservation programs (e.g. water conservation campaign(s) and related media buys, public and school education programs, participation at public events, SCV Water website, e-newsletter and social media, self-guided landscape tour, conservatory garden, etc.)

Goal C. Water Supply and Resource Sustainability: Implement programs to ensure the service area has reliable and sustainable supplies of water.

Strategy C. 4 Advance demand management and achieve State mandated water use efficiency targets.
C.4.9 Promote drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes out into the community
C.4.10 Communicate with customers the message that "conservation is a way of life"

## EQ CONSIDERATION

The Project, aka the whole of the action, qualifies for an exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (c) Class 1 - Existing Facilities because it is a minor alteration of an existing public facility as it concerns the modification of an existing sidewalk and bicycle path involving negligible or no expansion of use. The project also qualifies for an exemption under Section 13504(b) Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land as the Project consists of new landscaping which is replacing existing conventional landscape with water efficient landscape.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Water Resources and Watershed Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park.

Attachments
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
BRIDGEPORT POCKET PARK
PROJECT NO. 200701
August 2020





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Item 4 - Authorizing the GM to Execute a Construction Contract for Bridgeport Pocket Park

| Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency | Subtotal | $\mathbf{\$ 3 7 3 , 1 4 7 . 6 0}$ |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Bid Results for Project Bridgeport Pocket Park (2300190) | Total | $\mathbf{\$ 3 7 3 , 1 4 7 . 6 0}$ |
| Issued on 07/22/2022 | Square Feet | $16,000.00$ |
| Bid Due on September 01, 2022 2:00 PM (PDT) | $\mathbf{\$ / S F}$ | $\$ 23.32$ |

Exported on 09/01/2022

Table 1. SCV Water - Bridgeport Pocket Park Lowest Cost Bid Proposal by Element

| Element | Total |  | \$/SF |  | \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Construction | \$ | 129,805.39 | \$ | 8.11 | 35\% |
| Engagement "Signage" | \$ | 70,077.00 | \$ | 4.38 | 19\% |
| Irrigation | \$ | 43,044.74 | \$ | 2.69 | 12\% |
| Non-Plant Landscape | \$ | 58,197.84 | \$ | 3.64 | 16\% |
| Pathways \& Pads | \$ | 30,174.33 | \$ | 1.89 | 8\% |
| Plants | \$ | 30,127.97 | \$ | 1.88 | 8\% |
| Services | \$ | 11,720.33 | \$ | 0.73 | 3\% |

