



Legislation Text

File #: 05-2798, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to authorize City Manager to execute a contract with Manson Construction and Engineering to dredge the Los Angeles River navigation channel to Catalina Landing Basin in an amount not to exceed \$174,000 for a term of thirty days. (District 2)

Catalina Landing is a complex of office buildings developed on Tidelands owned by the City of Long Beach, but subject to the California Public Trust Doctrine. This complex contains facilities specifically designed to support the operations of a terminal for moderate-sized ships for passenger transportation service. Approximately 70 percent of the passenger traffic to Catalina Island travels through this terminal on an annual basis.

The extraordinary winter rains experienced this past year caused a substantial increase in silt deposits that were washed down the Los Angeles River blocking the channel that leads to the Catalina Landing Basin. In April 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), the federal agency established by Congress with responsibility for maintaining public navigation channels, responded to the situation and conducted an interim-dredging project to clear the channel enough to allow operations from the Catalina Landing Basin. Followed by unusually late rain in May, additional silt has been deposited into the channel impacting access to the Catalina Landing Basin for passenger services to and from Catalina Island, commercial operations, and the Aquarium of Pacific's delivery of clean seawater for its tanks. To address this latest obstruction, ACOE has designed a second dredging operation to open the navigation channel for the summer. This will be a one-day dredging scheduled for June 21, 2005. Testing has shown that the material to be dredged from the channel is slightly contaminated. The silt will be dredged from the channel, contaminants separated, and the remaining clean sand will be utilized in our beach building efforts. The dredging, separation and beach deposit processes will take approximately one week. The contaminated material will be taken to the Port of Los Angeles for disposal into an upland disposal location.

During the initial dredge project, the City paid \$74,000 to Manson Construction and Engineering (MCE) in support of the project work. Staff is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for possible reimbursement of the expenditure.

As the first channel project severely reduced ACOE's budget, they have asked the City to partner in the proposed second dredging project. Because ACOE used MCE for the first dredge project they have been selected to perform the work for the proposed second dredging due to their familiarity with the site and ability to complete the work expeditiously. The City will pay for the costs associated with the removal of the dredge material in an estimated amount not to exceed \$100,000. The ACOE will be responsible for the expenses associated with the barge equipment and processing of the dredge material at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

This project will provide an interim solution to allow operations at Catalina Landing to

continue; however, the long-term solution requires that the entire channel be dredged in order to ensure continuous passage of ships in the future. To accomplish this goal, the City will continue to aggressively pursue the estimated \$5 million in federal funding needed to provide a full dredge and disposal of the estimated 44,000 cubic meters of material and maintain an open channel.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Richard F. Anthony on June 7, 2005, and by Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on June 7, 2005.

City Council action is requested on June 14, 2005, to enable the City to initiate coordination between agencies and the contractor, to complete the work necessary to clear the channel and allow full commercial operations during peak season, which represents a major climb in business with the end of the school year.

The total project cost is estimated in an amount not to exceed \$174,000. The City has already expended \$74,000 in support of the initial work performed. The funds to pay for the work are currently budgeted in the Tidelands Operating Fund (TF) in Capital Improvement Project Number PR8350 in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PR).

Approve recommendation.

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PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE