CITY OF
HAYWARD
HEART OF THE BAY

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DATE: March 16, 2010

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Development Services Director

SUBJECT: Presentation of Draft Sea Level Rise Report

RECOMMENDATION

That Council reads and comments on this report.

BACKGROUND

The *Preliminary Study on the Effects of Sea Level Rise on the Resources of the Hayward Shoreline* (Attachment I) was commissioned by the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency (HASPA). This joint powers agency (JPA) consists of representatives from the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD), the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), and the City of Hayward. In July 2008, EBRPD staff released a request for proposals on behalf of HASPA. One proposal was received and a contract with Philip Williams & Associates, Ltd. (PWA) was executed on November 20, 2008. PWA began work on the study in December of 2008.

On October 21, 2008, Michael Anderson of the EBRPD made a presentation during a Council Work Session and provided information on the condition of levees and damage caused by prior storms. On December 17, 2009, Jeremy Lowe of PWA made a presentation to HASPA, which included information on existing conditions of the shoreline and preliminary findings of the study.

The City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in July 2009, anticipated the release of the attached report and the CAP includes a placeholder for a "climate change adaptation" strategy to be added in a future version of the CAP.

DISCUSSION

The attached report was prepared to assist HASPA with planning for anticipated rises in sea level. As noted in Section 3 of the report, the State of California has directed its agencies to plan for a rise in sea level of 55 inches by 2100. Section 5 describes the various resources that are at risk from sea level rise, such as utility lines, landfills, storm drainage facilities, trails, wastewater treatment facilities, a railroad line, marshes, and mudflats.

Alternatives for protecting shoreline resources from the impacts of sea level rise are discussed in Section 7 of the report. Possibilities include building larger levees and seawalls, building new levees farther from the bay, creating new marsh areas, and combinations of these strategies. Solutions will likely be phased in over time as rises in sea level are expected to occur gradually. Section 8 calls for next steps and recommends that a more detailed vulnerability assessment be prepared to evaluate and plan for specific infrastructure improvements.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Presentation of the attached report will have no economic impact on the community. Depending on the course of action selected by the agencies responsible for the shoreline, there may be negative impacts associated with flooding or other damage to infrastructure. If significant repairs or proactive improvements are made to the shoreline, positive impacts would include the creation of construction and engineering jobs and minimization of damage to infrastructure and buildings.

FISCAL IMPACT

Each member agency of HASPA contributed $10,000, for a total of $30,000, to fund the preparation of the study. Given the potential effects of sea level rise on the City's wastewater treatment facility, funds from the wastewater treatment enterprise fund were used to cover the City's share.

Sources of funds for additional studies, environmental review, and shoreline improvement projects have not been identified. In November 2009, staff submitted an application through Congressman Pete Stark's office for funding through the Water Resources Development Act of 2010. The application requested $24.8 million, including $18 million for levee and infrastructure repair, $5 million for a demonstration project, and $1.8 million for a Shoreline Realignment Master Plan.

PUBLIC CONTACT

As noted above, the issue of sea level rise related to the Hayward shoreline was discussed at a Council meeting on October 21, 2008 and at a HASPA meeting on December 17, 2009.

NEXT STEPS

The attached report will be presented to HASPA on April 8, 2010. A final report, incorporating comments from the three member agencies of HASPA, will be provided by the consultant by May 14, 2010. Given the fast pace of changing science and legislation related to climate change and depending on the City's progress toward its greenhouse gas reduction goals, it is likely that the CAP will be revised in the next few years. When the CAP is revised, staff will incorporate the findings of this study.

Prepared by: Erik J. Pearson, AICP, Senior Planner

Recommended by: David Rizk, AICP, Development Services Director

Approved by:

Gregory T. Jones, City Manager

Attachments:

Attachment I Draft Report titled *Preliminary Study on the Effects of Sea Level Rise on the Resources of the Hayward Shoreline*