AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:
Conduct Public Hearing, Receive Report, and Consider Adoption of City Council Resolution Adopting Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Raw Water Line Replacement Project, City Project 2019-02

ISSUE:
The City's Raw Water Line Replacement Project will replace almost two miles of pipeline that has reached the end of its service life. The pipeline supplies about 50% of the City's raw water to the Water Treatment Plant. In order to ensure that the project does not have any detrimental environmental impacts, an environmental assessment was conducted. The design engineer, Coleman Engineering, hired sub-consultant, Dewberry Engineers to conduct the Initial Study (IS), and it was determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) would be appropriate.

ANALYSIS:
The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Notice of Availability was posted on March 25, 2022 and the document was uploaded to the City's website for public review. The Notice was published in the Advocate News on March 31 and April 8, 2022. The document was uploaded to the State Clearinghouse (SCH: 2022030742) on March 28, 2022 and circulated for Agency comment for the required 30-day period. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Caltrans were the only reviewing Agencies that had comments. Fish and Wildlife made six (6) recommendations. There were no public comments received.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH: 2022030742) and Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the Raw Water Line Replacement Project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):
Deny the adoption and make recommendations or provide alternative direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:
The City has received almost $8.8 million for construction of this project. The agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) requires that all work be completed by March 31, 2024 and funding be expended by June 30, 2024. In order to meet that goal, the City will need to make every effort to start construction as soon as possible. Adopting the MND will allow the project to move forward with applying for all required construction permits.

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GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:
The IS/MND analyzes the potential Green House Gas Emissions (GHG) impact of the project on pages 128-131. The project will have a less than significant impact on GHGs without mitigation required.

CONSISTENCY:
The document was prepared in accordance with CEQA requirements. Based on the results of the Agency Review period, the Initial Study was adequate to conclude that the project would have less than significant environmental impacts with incorporated mitigations. Adopting the MND will allow the project to move forward to meet the goal of ensuring a more reliable and resilient supply of water to the Water Treatment Plant in order to provide the residents of Fort Bragg with safe, high quality drinking water.

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:
Once the documents have been adopted, the City and/or its consultants will move forward with applying for the required permits. The conservative estimate for obtaining the Coastal Development Permit, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and Section 404 Nationwide Permit is six (6) months. The conservative estimate for obtaining the Section 401 Water Quality Certification is nine (9) months. The project is set up such that it can be constructed by segments or in its entirety. If one or more of the permits are jeopardizing the overall schedule, the City may elect to construct segments for which a subject permit is not required.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Project Map
2. CEQA Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
3. Agency Comments
4. Mitigation Monitoring Plan
5. Resolution Adopting the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration
6. Public Hearing Notice

NOTIFICATION:
1. Active Planning Environmental Reports Notify Me list