

MINUTES

PROPOSITION "O" GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 26, 2007, 3:30 p.m.
Room 1500, City Hall East

Members Present: David Hirano (CAO representative)
Gerry Miller
Cynthia Ruiz
Michael Mullin (Mayor's Office representative)

Members Not Present: Karen Sisson
Ron Deaton
Nancy Sutley

The meeting was called to order.

The Administrative Oversight Committee (AOC) approved the minutes from the meeting held on June 28, 2007.

Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) staff provided a briefing relative to the actions taken by the Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) and other issues as follows:

- At the COAC's July 18, 2007 meeting the COAC heard a presentation on the concept reports for the Aliso Wash Limekiln Creek Confluence Restoration and the Parking Grove in El Sereno projects. The COAC took action to request that the Aliso Wash-Limekiln Creek Restoration project be brought back to the COAC if there are any cost savings or if additional Prop O monies become available.
- The COAC took a vote to provide \$2 million for the Parking Grove in El Sereno project. That vote failed by a 3-3 vote. The COAC took action to disapprove the project as it was presented through a 5-1 vote.
- COAC took action to concur with the AOC's recommendation at its May 2007 meeting for a \$5 million set aside for the Albion Dairy Park project in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. COAC also heard a presentation by BOE on project rankings that was also presented to AOC at its June 2007 meeting.

Bureau of Sanitation (Sanitation) presented a summary of the concept report for the Aliso Wash Limekiln Creek Confluence Restoration project. An AOC member asked which TMDL requirement the project meets. Sanitation responded that the project will meet future TMDL requirements that are not currently active, such as metals and bacteria. An AOC member advised that the proposed action is to allocate funding when it becomes available. An AOC member made a motion to approve project funding when funding becomes available, consistent with the COAC action. This motion was approved.

Sanitation presented the concept report for the Parking Grove in El Sereno project. An AOC member acknowledged Rogelio Navar from CD 14. The speaker provided a handout to demonstrate

the \$2.5 million in savings that was generated by reducing the project scope. The speaker advised that this is the only water quality benefit project that CD 14 has applied for and there are no other projects pending to his knowledge. He requested that AOC provided partial funding for the project. An AOC member asked why the COAC objected to the project. The CLA representative advised that the COAC felt that the project was too costly for the size of the parking lot.

The COAC representative stated that the COAC appreciated all the work that CD 14 and Rogelio put into the project. COAC considered the project at several meetings. The ultimate concerns might be that the water quality benefits were not seen as being overwhelming in this case and the drainage area was small compared with the cost. It just was not good enough, in the estimation of the committee members, to send the project forward. COAC thought it was too expensive with not enough water quality benefits.

An AOC member asked where the parking lot drains to now. Sanitation staff stated that there is a catch basin near the location to collect runoff, which drains into the Los Angeles River. An AOC member asked if the parking lot was regular pavement or permeable pavers. Sanitation responded that the initial design included porous pavement but as a cost savings measure this was replaced with asphalt pavement. An AOC member referred to the project cost chart and advised that it appeared that the costs were not related to water quality. Sanitation responded that project aspects which are not considered as providing water quality benefits but are still necessary for the project include retaining walls, excavation and backfill. The total construction cost for these features is approximately \$730,000.

An AOC member recognized two more speakers. Joyce Dillard advised that she was at the COAC meeting and the El Sereno Parking Lot is four times as much as the average cost of other parking lot projects. She expressed concerns about how Prop O bond funds have been allocated. The AOC recognized Paul Edelman but he had no remarks as the Aliso Limekiln project was previously approved.

An AOC member recommended holding the El Sereno project over for 30 days to examine some viable alternatives to funding this project. These alternatives include funding from the Special Parking Revenue Fund that is dedicated to CD 14. The CD 14 representative requested that the El Sereno project be held over for 30 days while alternative funding sources are explored.

Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) highlighted the Oros Green Street project. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held this morning. This is the first completed Prop O project. Engineering recognized Northeast Trees as well as Street Services for an excellent job in the design and construction of the project.

Engineering made a request that the AOC approve appropriations for nine projects previously approved by Council: Grand Boulevard Tree Wells, La Cienega, South Los Angeles Wetlands, Westminster Dog Park, Echo Park, Penmar, Westchester, Temescal and Rosecrans. An amount of \$2.9 million will be transferred from unexpended appropriations for three projects: Catch Basins Phase I, Cesar Chavez and Santa Monica Low Flow Diversions. An AOC member asked if this was an increase in the budget for these projects or moving cash flow from savings from projects into other projects. Engineering stated that this was to move unexpended monies to meet the cash flow needs of the nine projects.

Sanitation had no issues to report. Sanitation is working with Engineering in the implementation phase of projects.

Sanitation responded to an AOC request for a report back regarding catch basins at its June 2007 meeting. Phases I and II of the catch basin screens and inserts are close to been completed. The City has complied with the first TMDL milestone of September 2006 and is on track to meet the next milestone of September 30, 2007. Approximately, 7,000 catch basin inserts and 15,200 catch basin screens based on hot spots or high, medium and low trash areas have been installed. The County of Los Angeles (County) installed 500 catch basin inserts and covers in high trash areas. An AOC member asked how many catch basins are owned by the County. Sanitation responded that the amount was approximately 1,500. Sanitation will continue to work with the County. However, the remaining 1,000 catch basins are currently included for retrofit in the Catch Basin Opening Screens Phase III project. Phase III will result in 100 percent compliance over the next three to four years with the TMDL Trash mandate.

Sanitation stated that Caltrans has installed catch basins within the City limits, on streets and bridges, on behalf of the City. There is a contractual agreement that goes back to the 1950s stating that once installed, these become the property of the City. Caltrans owns catch basins on freeway on-ramps and off-ramps. An AOC member asked how many catch basins are owned by Caltrans. Sanitation stated that Caltrans owned 2,000-3,000 catch basins.

Engineering provided a status report on project implementation. Pre-design on three projects is near completion. Design on these three projects will be initiated. Also Engineering is planning to increase the cost ceiling of Task Order No. 45 for pre-design services with Psomas by \$4 million to a total amount of \$7 million. In order to support these projects through construction, Engineering will also request to extend the Psomas contract by four years. Engineering will request the AOC to consider this matter at a future meeting. Four new Task Order Solicitations: Echo Park, Penmar, Temescal and Westchester TMDL projects have been released to request proposals for pre-design of these projects.

An AOC member commented that staff should provide timely reports on the status of projects as this member was not aware of the completion of the Oros Street project. This will afford the AOC members with the opportunity to communicate with the public on how Prop O dollars are being spent. As the AOC is moving from the approving of projects, it should focus on the progress of project implementation.

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned.