December 13, 2018

Notice of Upcoming Release of Request for Proposals

Consulting Procurement for Professional Landscape Architecture and Engineering Services for the Civic Center Nature Area Project (WCE028)

The City of Elk Grove, Public Works Department, will be requesting a detailed proposal from firms qualified to provide Professional Landscape Architecture and Engineering services to complete the design and prepare the bid documents for construction for the City of Elk Grove Civic Center Nature Area Project (WCE028). This Project is located on approximately 28 acres on the south side of Elk Grove Boulevard between Big Horn Drive and Laguna Springs Drive. The City envisions that the selected consultant shall provide a new, fresh perspective to the Project, while also embracing the big picture vision of the site that is articulated in the Schematic Design Concept, including but not limited to the following major components:

Trail Features:
The plan concept features multiple types of walks and paths providing connectivity throughout the site, including 10’ wide main decorative concrete walks continuing from the Commons area serving both pedestrians and bicyclists, a 8’ wide secondary walk constructed of decorative concrete, a pedestrian bridge, boardwalks proposed in a variety of widths, and trails constructed of decomposed granite (DG). The DG trails circulate only through nature areas to create a nature experience. The 10’ wide main decorative concrete walks include lighting, whereas the other walks and trails do not have lighting to minimize disturbance to the nature areas.

Nature Features:
The existing wetland/pond is typically dry and relatively shallow and without a year-round water source. The proposed concept includes deepening and sculpting the wetland/pond to improve water retention and create new vegetative habitats conducive to supporting wildlife. An initial geotechnical infiltration test was conducted to help understand the amount of water necessary to support a year-round wetland/pond. Although supplemental geotechnical tests must be completed during the next stage of design, the initial infiltration tests reveal that infiltration levels are minimal and a shallow water well source will likely support a year-round wetland/pond. The existing “islands” will be supplemented with new plants and trees to create a symbiotic land and pond relationship. A year round wetland/pond provides for a unique outdoor experience and will serve as a natural water refuge for wildlife, offering a rare but accessible scenic nature experience within the City.

Agricultural Features:
The area’s rich agricultural history is reflected in the remnants of a pistachio orchard and water silo that is present, and when combined with the natural designated wetland, it serves as a habitat for a variety of wildlife. The concept proposes to clean up and maintain the natural existence of the pistachio orchard, generally keeping it in its current state but conduct limited pruning and ground cleanup to ensure viability of its natural wildlife habitat. The water silo will be incorporated into the design in some manner to recognize the agricultural heritage of the site and inform the public.

Park Features:
The Great Meadow will extend southward from the Aquatics Center lawn to form a large expansive grass area suitable for a variety of outdoor activities. This area will be a maintained and irrigated lawn, in contrast to the natural Central Valley Grasslands that are present elsewhere in the design. Along the southern edge of the Great Meadow there are a variety of activity spaces including picnic tables, a fitness court, children’s play area, and overlooks at the water/pond edge shaded by a variety of trees.
Elsewhere, large areas of Central Valley Grasslands juxtaposed among tree groves and land forms will provide a visually interesting natural environment and create a natural buffer for the Parkgate Community to the east. Nestled between the Great Meadow and Central Valley Grassland is a Central Valley Wildflower Field providing seasonal bursts of color. Towards the south end of the site there is limited development. With the exception of proposed walks and trails and a shallow well, this area will remain in its current natural state other than minor cleanup and non-native tree removal.

The Staff Report and exhibits for Landscape & Pedestrian Trails Project Study, approved by City Council on June 27, 2018 are available on the City’s website under City Council agendas at the following link: http://www.elkgrovecity.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_109585/File/cityclerk/citycouncil/2018/attachment s/06-27-18_10.2.pdf. A video of the presentation can be found on the website as well.

While the City has been notified that it is a proposed recipient of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant through the California Department of Parks and Recreation via National Park Service, in the amount of $3 million towards the construction phase of this Project, funding for these services will be with Local Funds and as such, this procurement will follow the City’s non-federal aid selection process. The anticipated schedule is to release the RFP and other additional documents within two weeks. When released, the RFP and supporting documents can be accessed at the following website: http://www.elkgrovecity.org/city_hall/departments_divisions/purchasing/request_for_proposals_bids/. The Request for Proposals is expected to be released on January 2, 2019 and responses will be due on January 31, 2019 at 2P.M.

City staff will be available to meet with all firms interested in obtaining additional information on the project. To schedule a meeting regarding the upcoming RFP, please contact John Griffin, Senior Civil Engineer at jgriffin@elkgrovecity.org. Once the RFP is released, meetings with firms to discuss the Project will not be scheduled; all questions on the RFP will need to be submitted in writing and follow the request for information (RFI) process and timeline as outlined in the RFP.