

RESOLUTION NO. 17-54

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA TO (1) APPROVE THE ADDENDUM TO THE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM EIR; (2) APPROVE THE FINAL LANDSCAPING PLANS; AND (3) AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH A CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FOR THE WASHINGTON BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the City Council approved a budget of \$38.5 Million for the Washington Boulevard Project on December 2014, and as part of the adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP); and

WHEREAS, the City Council awarded the Washington Boulevard construction contract to the lowest bidder, Sully Miller Construction Company on December 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the interchange at the I-5 freeway and Washington Boulevard is one of the most important gateways into the City of Commerce and one of the goals of the Washington Boulevard widening project is for the City to enhance beautification elements along this corridor; and

WHEREAS, the landscape improvements further enhances the City's goals to bring aesthetic elements to this corridor and to the City's gateway; and

WHEREAS, as part of the on-going beautification program, the City retained David Volz Design Landscape Architects, Inc. (DVD) to develop landscaping conceptual plans for the I-5 freeway south bound ramp (See Attachment 3); and

WHEREAS, the City is also in the process of executing a landscape maintenance agreement with Caltrans in order for the City to maintain the underlying landscaping. Caltrans requires a maintenance agreement when a local agency seeks to implement new landscaping, and upon execution of such an agreement, Caltrans allows the improvements to be implemented and maintained by the local agency; and

WHEREAS, staff has also discussed with Caltrans to plant new trees on the center median island that extends from the southbound ramps to the City boundary. Caltrans Permitting has indicated that this area will be added to the final permit to the maintenance agreement that is being executed between the City and Caltrans. Staff will inquire with Sully Miller in order to ascertain costs. Staff will then inform the City Council the final cost amount for this additional work. The current estimate proposed by the landscape architect, DVD, is approximately \$1,000,000, and the City has already allocated \$1,000,000 for the additional landscape work. Staff will then proceed with processing the contract change order; and

WHEREAS, the proposed activities will not impact the operating budget, as the project was approved and included in the FY 2014/15 Capital Improvement Project Budget;

WHEREAS, Blodgett & Associates is the environmental consultant that originally developed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Washington Boulevard project. It reviewed the addition of new landscaping and prepared the attached CEQA document and amendment to the Washington Boulevard EIR, indicating this work is exempt and can be added to the project (See Attachment 2).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE DOES HEREBY DETERMINE AND RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Addendum to the Washington Boulevard Improvement Program EIR prepared by Blodgett & Associates is hereby APPROVED and ADOPTED. The Council also approves and adopts the findings therein, which reflect the Council's independent judgment and analysis;
2. The final Landscape Plans prepared by David Volz Design Landscape Architects, Inc. is hereby APPROVED; and
3. Staff is hereby authorized to proceed in processing the contract change order for the landscaping work described herein and the pertinent attachments.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 16th day of May 2017.

Tina Baca Del Rio
Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Lena Shumway, City Clerk