



**Agenda Item A.3**  
**CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**Meeting Date: March 4, 2025**

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**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**SUBMITTED BY:** Luz “Nina” Buelna, Public Works Director

**PREPARED BY:** Gerald Comati, Contract Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant Opportunity for The San Jose Creek Channel Fish-Passage Modification Project

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive information on California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant fund opportunities for the construction phase of the San Jose Creek Channel Fish Passage Modification Project (CIP No. 9117).

**BACKGROUND:**

Various revenue sources fund Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects. The major source of funds available for capital projects are dedicated funds. Funds for the CIP are accounted for in the City’s special revenue funds and include various development impact fee funds, transportation-related special revenue funds, and major federal and state grants that have been awarded. State and Federal grant funding remains an important source for CIP projects.

The San Jose Creek Channel Fish Passage Modification Project was initiated in early 2022 when the City Council authorized and funded a new CIP project, the San Jose Creek Channel Fish Passage Modification Project (CIP No. 9117). The project was established to satisfy a permit requirement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) mandating that the City modify in-place fish passage elements constructed within San Jose Creek Channel in order to provide a functioning and viable migration corridor for steelhead trout. The fish passage elements were initially constructed as part of the City’s San Jose Creek Capacity Improvement and Fish Passage Project (constructed in 2014).

In 2022, the City Council appropriated \$650,000 from General Funds for the project’s environmental, permitting, and design phases. Following the allocation and the approval of consultant contracts, the City assembled a coalition of representatives from the City, CDFW, the National Marine Fisheries (NMFs), and the Santa Barbara County Flood

Control and Water Conservation District to develop a consensus design. A consensus design was developed and tested through physical and computer hydraulic modeling. This effort is now being concluded, and the environmental review and permitting phase is underway. The construction phase is scheduled for the summer of 2026. However, funding for the construction phase has not been identified.

**DISCUSSION:**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has several grant opportunities to fund watershed restoration projects, specifically fisheries restoration projects. One of the opportunities is the Restoration Opportunities Program Grant, funded through State Proposition 1 and State Proposition 68. The main components of this grant are to enhance wildlife corridors to support connectivity projects that enhance and address multi-benefit and nature-based solutions. A second grant opportunity also available through CDFW is the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, released at the end of January and due April 17, 2025. This opportunity is focused on the conservation, protection, and recovery of salmon and steelhead populations throughout California and is funded annually by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. During this funding award cycle, it is anticipated that \$17 million is available and approximately 28 – 40 projects will be funded, ranging from \$100,000 - \$2 million. Both grants require submitting an initial concept proposal which CDFW staff will review and advise on which grant best aligns with the proposed project.

<b>CDFW GRANT PROGRAM DETAILS</b>	
<b>Lead Agency</b>	City of Goleta
<b>Eligible CIP Project</b>	San Jose Creek Channel Fish Passage Modification Project (CIP 9117)
<b>Grant Program Funding Available</b>	<b>Restoration Opportunities Program Grant</b> Up to \$30 million in funding is available in State funds.
<b>Grant Funding Request Amount</b>	Up to \$3 million
<b>Grant Matching Funds</b>	None required
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Restoration Opportunities Program Grant</b> Proposal/applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis. Concept application proposed to be submitted in March 2025
<b>Grant Awards Announced</b>	Grant awards will be made by the end of 2025

<b>Grant Program Funding Available</b>	<b>Fisheries Restoration Grant Program</b> \$17 million
<b>Grant Funding Request Amount</b>	Up to \$3 million
<b>Grant Matching Funds</b>	None required
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Fisheries Restoration Grant Program</b> Proposal/applications are due by April 17, 2025. City would submit a concept application in March 2025
<b>Grant Awards Announced</b>	Grant awards will be made by the end of 2025

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There are no fiscal impacts at this time. Should the City receive this grant, it will help close the estimated funding gap of approximately \$2 – \$3 million for the San Jose Creek Channel Fish Passage Modification Project.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

None

**LEGAL REVIEW BY:** Isaac Rosen, Acting City Attorney

**APPROVED BY:** Robert Nisbet, City Manager