

Conclusion: It is desirable to carry forward the community excitement, environmental awareness and partnerships that were formed through the October 2005 workshop effort - in the form of a River Corridor Master Concept Plan. The River Corridor Master Concept Plan will contain key policies to guide future preservation and development of the river; and contain implementation steps essential to improving the health of the river corridor over time, including conservation and water quality steps. The document is intended to serve as a foundation for a more detailed set of projects and/or River Management plan in the future. The retention of professional services will facilitate completion of the River Corridor plan. Council consideration of a concept level plan is anticipated November 2006.

Policy

Reference: General Plan (Adopted 2003); 2006 Economic Strategy

Fiscal Impact: The cost to complete the River Corridor Plan is estimated at \$29,000.

City Council had appropriated funds in December 2004 to use towards a combination of the "Follow the River - Follow the Dream" Design Workshop and partnering in the River Parkway Trail project. However, that funding has not been sufficient to take the project through to its completion as planned.

Recent dialogue/correspondence with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) indicates that there may be an opportunity for the City to complete the River Corridor Plan through receipt of funding as a "Supplement Environmental Project" (SEP). This funding is estimated to be \$27,000, and is available based on levies paid by the City related to its NPDES Wastewater discharge permit.

The City has received staff approval for the proposed SEP. Formal approval by the RWQCB is anticipated at the September 7, 2006 RWQCB meeting as a consent item.

Once the City is notified of the confirmed approval of the River Corridor Plan as an SEP by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a separate action will be prepared for Council to appropriate the funding from the Sewer Operations fund to the Salinas River project. Receipt of notification is anticipated in September 2007.

- Options:
- a. Receive and file status report
 - b. Amend, reject, or modify the above option.