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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: August 28, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Kim Clayback, Public Works & Utilities

ITEM TYPE: Agreement

AGENDA SECTION: NEW BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS, CITY ATTORNEY AND COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Oyster Restoration Supplemental Environmental Project Discussion

SUGGESTED ACTION: Council approval of allowing funds currently encumbered for City staff to directly oversee oyster restoration in the Manatee River to be directed to Oyster River Ecology (ORE - a 501c3) to permit and implement a restoration project adjacent to Riverwalk Park as required through the Supplemental Environmental Project to City is obligated to perform.

Is this item Quasi-Judicial?

No

Does this item require a public hearing?

No

EXPLANATION:

The City is obligated to perform a supplemental environmental project as agreed to with the Environmental Group. Changes at the state level, FDEP 404 permitting program, have pushed the estimated permitting time for the project to approximately 12-18 months. In order to meet the obligation with the EGs in the timeline specified in the Consent Decree, City administration and staff have explored several avenues to completion. Working with the ORE was negotiated with the Environmental Groups legal counsel and City administration to complete the project in a timely manner.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Payment for the project is included in GL account 40251210-531000-WTRKP, approximately \$200,000.

ATTORNEY REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Motion to authorize staff to move forward with the funding of the oyster restoration project through ORE.

ATTACHMENTS: