

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: July 10, 2018

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TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Approve a Purchase Order for 2018 Mid-Town Coral Nursery Mitigation Through the Port of Palm Beach Berth 1 Orphan Coral Relocation Project  
**Resolution No. 096-2018**

DATE: June 25, 2018

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Town staff recommends that Town Council approve Resolution No. 096-2018 approving a purchase order to Coastal Eco-Group, Inc. (CEG), in the amount of \$81,878 to conduct the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) required Mid-Town mitigation, and establishing a 2018 coral nursery mitigation phase budget of \$90,000.

Additionally, staff recommends that Town Council authorize the Mayor or Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Port of Palm Beach to cost-share the coral relocation project and reduce the net cost to the Town by \$29,442 from \$81,878 to \$52,436.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

While the Town was in the permitting process for the 2015 Mid-Town Beach Nourishment project, the Town worked with FDEP staff to address environmental concerns associated with the previous Mid-Town projects in 2003 and 2006. Town staff successfully obtained a permit modification in 2013 to assess direct and indirect impacts to natural resources through the State's Unified Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) which were substantially less than originally permitted. The ability to utilize UMAM allows impacts associated with the two previous Mid-Town nourishment projects to be mitigated appropriately.

The Port of Palm Beach (Port) is pursuing work in Berth 1. The work includes construction of new sheet piles to replace existing piles. The existing wall has hundreds of corals that must be transplanted before the wall is replaced. These 'corals of opportunity' can be relocated to the Town's 0.8-acre artificial reef. Per state permit, the Town has an annual obligation to relocate approximately 500 corals per year for a 10-year period at an annual appropriated cost of \$200,000. The cost of locating corals can be expensive. Having potentially hundreds of corals already located and identified in Berth 1 presents a significant savings to the Town. We anticipate being able to satisfy more than one years' worth of mitigation with this single effort. Surveys suggest that there may be as many as 850 corals greater than 3 cm in diameter on Berth 1.

The Town and the Port have previously worked collaboratively on coral transplantation efforts and Port staff has expressed interest in working again with the Town. Subject to approval from the Port Commission, the Port would pay \$29,442 toward the Town's coral transplant effort using corals from Berth 1. This amount is equivalent to the cost to relocate 300 corals that the Port is required per U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. The 300 corals are still applicable to the Town's coral relocation total as the mitigation is a state obligation and not a federal obligation. In addition, the Port would cost share \$5,000 annually for a three-year monitoring effort. Town staff requests that Town Council authorize the Mayor or Town Manager to execute a cost-share agreement with the Port.

The Town continues to implement the long-term nursery program. The CEG June 25, 2018 scope of work proposal includes all the required field work to satisfy at least another year of the program. Reporting will be performed under a separate authorization.

### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

The Coastal Protection Fund includes sufficient funds to accommodate CEG's June 25, 2018 scope of work proposal of \$81,878 and a phase budget of \$90,000.

### **PURCHASING REVIEW**

This item has been reviewed by the Purchasing Division and approved as recommended.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW**

This proposed Resolution has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney for legal form and sufficiency.

### **Attachments**

cc: Jane Le Clainche, Director of Finance  
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager  
Dean Mealy, Purchasing Manager