

Date: April 5, 2022

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Final Visioning Study for Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier**

On February 6, 2018, the Mayor and City Council requested the City Manager to prepare an “8 by 28” plan; a needs assessment and project timeline for eight projects that are critical to a successful 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games; and to prioritize and brand these projects as Olympic priority development projects for future funding opportunities. The replacement of the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier (Pier) is one of the eight projects identified for its potential to serve as a centerpiece and viewing center for the games.

Built in 1965, the existing Pier is approximately 50,000 square feet and is currently constructed of lightweight concrete and precast deck planks. It serves a variety of recreational uses including, but not limited to, summer camp activities and recreational fishing. In addition, the Pier hosts a County Lifeguard Station, and periodic events such as the Rose Bowl Regatta and Congressional Cup. In the past, the Pier did provide a public transit service via the Water Taxi and AquaLink, however due to storm damage to the Pier in 2017, this service is no longer available.

Over the years, the Pier has had limited structural maintenance, has been steadily deteriorating, and does not meet current seismic safety standards. In support of the 8 by 28 initiative, a reimagined Pier would provide a multitude of benefits, including enhanced coastal access; maintained and improved recreational opportunities; and continued economic development opportunities on and around the Pier.

Visioning Study

In response to the Mayor and City Council’s request, the Public Works Department (Public Works) supported a Visioning Study (Study) (attached) to gather input and feedback from the community to inform the development of a few preliminary design options. A robust community engagement process including multiple in-person and virtual workshops and online surveys resulted in the development of four preliminary concepts including a conceptual schedule and cost estimate, which can be found on pages 131 and 137 of the Study.

Concept 2, a proposed “horseshoe” shaped pier, was selected by the community as the preferred conceptual option amongst the developed designs. This shape and alignment honors the old Rainbow Pier, built on the Downtown waterfront in the 1930s and demolished in the 1960s. The preferred concept (page 64 of the Study) is a pile supported pier structure, featuring a new plaza and with multiple vantage points, outdoor educational opportunities, and recreation and a “safe harbor” for recreational water use.

The Study for the Pier has been completed. However, to advance the project and explore its feasibility and development potential, additional work is still needed as outlined below.

Next Steps

Public Works is currently onboarding an engineering firm to validate the concept, perform schematic level engineering, and conduct environmental and technical studies to advance the project. As the project evolves throughout this process, Public Works will continue to work with the community to refine the Pier's functional and technical programming.

These combined efforts and resulting documentation will allow the project to be advanced for the environmental review phase, as required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will enable the design team to begin State and Federal permitting, all of which are prerequisites to construction. Work on the Conceptual Design is anticipated to begin in March 2022.

Pending funding for the preparation of construction and bid documents and construction itself, the goal is to deliver and open the new Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics.

If you have any questions regarding this Study, please contact Project Management Bureau Manager Marilyn Surakus at (562) 570-5793.

[ATTACHMENT - FINAL VISIONING STUDY FOR THE BELMONT VETERANS MEMORIAL PIER](#)

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