Atascadero City Council
Staff Report – Public Works Department

Conveyance of Caltrans Capistrano Avenue Drainage Easements to the City of Atascadero

(Request for Council to accept drainage easements from CalTrans.)

RECOMMENDATION:

Council direct staff to initiate the transference of five (5) CalTrans drainage easements to the City.

DISCUSSION:

Caltrans is considering the abandonment of several drainage easements located along Capistrano Avenue, directly north of the Stadium Park entrance. Caltrans acquired the drainage easements for the realignment of SR 41. Caltrans had originally planned to fill the stadium park ravine and provide access via a large box culvert. The box culvert would have served as an access point to Stadium Park and would allow water to pass underneath. Local objections to the design caused Caltrans to reconsider, and Caltrans subsequently decided to bridge the ravine.

Caltrans contacted staff in March 2007, to see if the City would be interested in obtaining the aforementioned drainage easements. According to Caltrans, the easements are no longer needed since the proposed box culvert and fill were not constructed. The five easements are located on the north and south side of Capistrano Avenue as shown in Attachment A. The easements are highlighted on the map and are delineated as 3207-3, 3435-1, 3701-1, 5510-1, and 5511-1. All of the easements are located on private property. Caltrans is requesting that the City Council, through City staff, indicate if the City is interested in obtaining the easements. Once notified, Caltrans will begin the process of transferring the easements to the City. When the easements are ready to be transferred, City staff will prepare a resolution, for the City Council's review and approval, accepting the Caltrans drainage easements.

The Caltrans drainage easements, if accepted, will allow for the installation of storm drain facilities in the vicinity of Hospital Drive and Capistrano Ave. Currently there are
no storm water structures (i.e. down drains, storm sewers) in this area. Acceptance of these easements will provide additional tools for the City in solving the ponding problems which occurs at the corner of Hospital Drive and Capistrano Ave. In addition, any future development in this area could be conditioned to install future storm water handling facilities without the need for the procurement of costly drainage easements.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no fiscal impact as a result of the initiation of transference and acceptance of these drainage easements. The City will save a significant amount of funds by not having to pay for these easements in the future.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may decide not to pursue the transference of the easements located north and south of Capistrano Avenue.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Easement Location Map
Exhibit A
Caltrans Drainage Easements Location Map
Capistrano Avenue

Note: Area delineated with striping has not been acquired by Caltrans.