

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: WEST RIVER TIDE GATES AND EDGEWOOD PARK DUCK POND, Agreement with Connecticut Fund for the Environment for the Design and Construction of Improvements and Utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (City Engineer).

REPORT: 1449-08

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City Engineer requests aldermanic approval of an Agreement between the City and Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) for the design and construction of the West River tide gates and improvement to the Edgewood Duck Pond, together referred to as the West River Restoration Project. The existing twelve one-way tide gates located on the West River just south of Route 1 were installed in 1920, but currently block tidal exchange, resulting in poor water quality upstream, blocked fish passage, areas of degraded habitat and limited recreational use.

The City's Department of Engineering has identified the replacement of up to three of the twelve tide gates with newly installed self-regulating tide gates, and mitigation to the Edgewood Duck Pond, which will in their entirety permit tidal exchange, improve water quality, allow migratory fish passage, restore marsh habitat, and provide opportunities for increased recreational use in the West River. CFE, with support from the City's Department of Engineering and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, applied for and received in 2009 a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for \$1.1 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund permitting, design, and construction costs associated with the West River Restoration Project.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

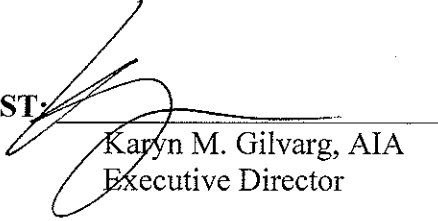
The Commission has previously approved Coastal Site Plan and Inland Wetland Reviews for the construction projects, based upon plans by Milone and MacBroom, finding them to have a beneficial impact on coastal resources (1446-03 and 1446-04, 11/17/10). CFE would act as the Project's Administrator for the completion of the West River Restoration Project and use the grant funds it has received from ARRA to facilitate the construction activities and improvements associated with the Project.

ADVICE

The Commission believes that the Project is in the best interest of the City and its residents and recommends approval of the Agreement with CFE to the Board.

ADOPTED: February 16, 2011
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:


Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director