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Need for Property Easements and/or Acquisitions to Implement the Project Design

Project Name: Little Manitowoc River Coastal Wetland Restoration

Project Number: 193702187

Overview: The Little Manitowoc River currently flows between Waldo Boulevard and Maritime Drive in a channel within the estuary that was dredged and straightened during the 1930s. Today, the existing dredged channel and a remnant of the original channel are still present within the estuary.

Design Features: The Little Manitowoc River Coastal Wetland Restoration Project involves modifying the dredged channel so that it reconnects with the original channel bed improving open water wildlife habitat in the estuary. A preliminary design relocates the channel alignment to the west and joins the river's original flow path. This proposed alignment is located in part on city-owned private properties.

Property Options: In order to proceed with the proposed design approach, easements or fee simple acquisitions for those portions of these properties affected by the realigned channel are required. The purchase of permanent easements would allow construction to occur without altering the current property boundaries. The City would hold the easements and negotiate rights-of-entry and responsibilities for waterway maintenance with the affected property owners.

Fee simple purchase of portions of the private properties affected by the relocated channel would provide the City permanent access and unrestricted use of the purchased portions. The size of the properties remaining in private ownership would be reduced, possibly reducing property taxes. Depending on the size of the fee simple purchase and whether or not the remaining portion of the property is still in the flood plain, the cost of flood insurance coverage required by lenders may not be required by landowners.

Schedule: The tentative project schedule is 2017, prior to reconstruction of Waldo Boulevard.