

Agenda Report

DATE: October 22, 2001

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE URBAN RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL CENTERS, MUSEUMS, AND FACILITIES FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION OR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM (URCC) OF THE PARK BOND ACT OF 2000 (PROPOSITION 12) FOR \$1,500,000 FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL AND EDUCATION PROGRAM IN PASADENA'S ARROYO SECO.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the City of Pasadena's application and resolution to the Urban Recreational and Cultural Centers, Museums, and Facilities for Wildlife Education or Environmental Education Grant Program (URCC) of the Park Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12) for \$1,500,000 for rehabilitation and development of an Interpretive Trail and Education program throughout Pasadena's Arroyo Seco.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

At their regular meeting on September 4, 2001, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously endorsed the City of Pasadena's application to the Urban Recreational and Cultural Centers, Museums, and Facilities for Wildlife Education or Environmental Education Grant Program (URCC) and recommended the City Council take similar action.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation is accepting applications for the Urban Recreational and Cultural Centers, Museums, and Facilities for Wildlife

Education or Environmental Education Grant Program (URCC). The intent of the URCC is to provide funds, on a competitive basis, to cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized California Indian tribes to enhance, develop, and rehabilitate urban recreational and cultural centers, museums and facilities for wildlife or environmental education in urban areas throughout California. Eight million dollars has been allocated for the URCC program. Staff recommends the Arroyo Seco Interpretive Trail and Education project for this funding. As the first step of this grant process, nominations by local legislators were required. In June of this year, the Arroyo Seco Interpretive Trail and Education project was nominated for funding by Senator Jack Scott and Assemblywoman Carol Liu to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. (see attached copies of nomination letters).

The Arroyo Seco Interpretive Trail and Education project would fulfill two major objectives: 1) provide a complete system of interpretive stops at key destinations along the 12 mile network of trails in the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena. This aspect of the project would accommodate the disabled by providing tactile information for the blind and complete accessibility, where feasible. Key destinations would be provided at landmark locations in the Arroyo Seco where either significant historical events have taken place, a particular natural feature of the Arroyo would be viewed and/or people would learn about the wildlife, plants or the water resources of this unique area of the Southern California region; 2) provide an extensive environmental educational program on the Arroyo Seco and its numerous natural resource benefits. This program would develop a traveling educational exhibit and materials that could be utilized by schools, local museums, and be displayed at numerous civic events. This aspect of the program would also collaborate with local school science programs and provide outdoor classroom settings with naturalists where youth could actively participate and learn about the natural resources of the Arroyo Seco. The Arroyo Seco Interpretive Trail portion of the project is a component of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan.

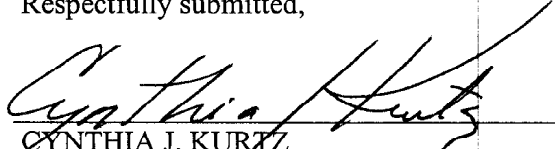
CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY IMPACT:

Award of this application grant would bring the City of Pasadena closer to completing the goal of safe public parks, open spaces, playgrounds and a range of recreational opportunities that meet the needs of diverse persons of all ages. Recreation programs provide children, youth, adults, and seniors with constructive and enriching alternatives for leisure time activities.


FISCAL IMPACT:

Award of this application grant would bring the City of Pasadena \$1,500,000, which will develop an Interpretive Trail System throughout the entire Arroyo Seco.

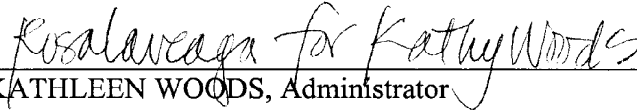
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

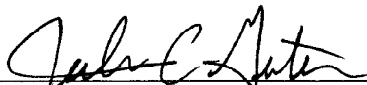
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