

Agenda Report

DATE: October 22, 2001

TO: City Council
THROUGH: Legislative Committee
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR PROPOSITION 12 URBAN COMMUNITY AND FORESTRY PROGRAM FUNDS TO PLANT STREET TREES.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the grant application request for \$50,000 for the FY2002/03 California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection, Urban Community and Forestry Program (Proposition 12) grant for the planting of street trees in commercial districts in east Pasadena per the City Council approved Master Street Tree Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Watershed, Wildlife, and Parks Improvement Bond Act of 2000 provides for funding for tree planting using Proposition 12 monies. This program is designed for planting projects less than \$50,000 and is administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban and Community Forest Program.

The Recreation and Parks Commission approved the request to apply for the grant at their September 4, 2001 meeting.

Staff proposes to apply for the aforementioned grant to plant street trees on East Colorado Boulevard. The area was identified by staff as one in need of shade tree plantings from aerial photographs. Existing trees are Mexican Fan Palm,

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project proposes to cut concrete, irrigate, mulch and plant 259 flowering street trees according to the currently approved Master Street Tree Plan along East Colorado Boulevard from Hill Avenue to Sierra Madre Boulevard. A consistent and coordinated street tree planting program along Colorado Boulevard would achieve the City's goals of slowing down traffic, providing shade and context to the street, and giving drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists a more pleasant traveling experience.

This stretch of East Colorado has been identified as the area with the most pressing need for street beautification. This is an area with a bleak streetscape, harsh urban environment, and it encourages drivers to exceed speed limits. Existing trees in this area are sporadic, in poor

health, and do not provide any context and “sense of place” to the area. Coordinated street tree plantings in this area would be the first and most important step towards revitalizing East Colorado Boulevard and making it a safer and more pleasant place for pedestrians.

The area between Hill Avenue and Sierra Madre Blvd. comprises approximately 5,180 linear feet. This calculation is the blockface only and excludes the right of way. With trees necessary on the north and south sides, this becomes 10,360 linear feet. If trees are planted 40 feet on center, 259 trees are necessary. Limitations that will be considered include the location of existing trees, location of utilities, and the needs of the Rose Parade.

The Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Public Works and Transportation Department will be responsible for the administration of the grant, if awarded. The proposed project is consistent with the Council adopted Master Street Tree Plan and follows the intent of the General Plan to provide a more livable environment for its residents. Increasing tree cover in neighborhoods will have an added benefit of reducing cooling costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The project would be categorically exempt per CEQA section 5301 (b) 3. The environmental for the existing Master Street Tree Plan would be used. No healthy mature trees would be removed for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

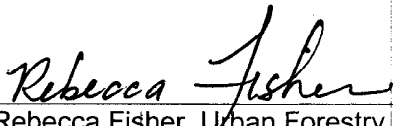
The grant requires a 25 percent match, which would total \$12,500. Sufficient funding is available in the Street Tree Deposit Fund account 3150 101 230053639 to provide the required match. Additionally, an estimated \$17,000 would need to be budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2003 operating budget for annual maintenance of the trees.

Respectfully submitted,

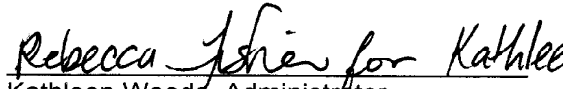

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