

Agenda Report

DATE: September 23, 2002

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the City of Pasadena's application and resolution to the State of California Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$325,000 to restore existing trails in the Arroyo Seco.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

At their special meeting on September 10, 2002, the Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed and unanimously endorsed the City of Pasadena's application and resolution to the State of California Resources Agency Department of Parks and Recreation for the Recreational Trails Program Grant and recommended that the City Council take similar action.

BACKGROUND:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is administered by the Federal Highway Administration and provides funds for recreational trails and trail-related projects. California is expected to receive approximately \$3.5 million a year from FY 2000 through FY 2003. Of the funds received by California, 70% is available for the non-motorized trail program.

This grant program requires that the share attributable to the RTP may not exceed 80%. However, funds from federal sources other than the Department of Transportation may be attributable to the project, bringing the total federal share allowable to 95 %. The local match must be from a non-federal source. The local match may include local, state, or private funds, as well as materials and services. This grant opportunity has recently been made available, and was therefore not presented as part of the Park Funding Plan in January 2002.

Restoration of the existing trails in the Arroyo Seco is recommended for this funding opportunity. The project is included in the draft Lower Arroyo Master Plan and the draft Central Arroyo Master Plan (CAMP), both components of the Draft Arroyo Seco Master Plan, currently in circulation.

The restoration of the existing trails in the Arroyo Seco would include trails in the Central Arroyo area as well as the Lower Arroyo. Within these areas, stone walls that have crumbled would be restored, trail surfaces that have eroded or been washed-out would be repaired, trailheads would be enhanced and trail signage would be improved. The major trailways through Brookside Park would be made safe for use and the par-course stations along the trail would be replaced. The trail would be surfaced with a natural, permeable material and be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible, where feasible.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget currently includes \$250,000 from 1992 Prop A funds for this project under the project entitled "Trail and Rubble Wall Restoration". A portion of this funding would serve as the match requirement for this grant submittal. The total estimated cost for this project is \$390,000.

Upon award of the grant, the City of Pasadena will be required to enter into an agreement with the Resources Agency of the State of California. The agreement will ensure that the project is completed according to the grant application and meets all applicable current laws and regulations. In addition, the project must be completed with all supporting documentation submitted by the deadline. The City must also agree to post signs acknowledging the source of funds, and comply with provisions of Chapter 16, Sec. 7260 of Div. 7, Title of the State Government Code.

It is estimated that the completion of this project will result in additional maintenance costs of \$10,000 per year. If the City is successful in obtaining this grant, staff will seek maintenance funding through the annual operating budget process.

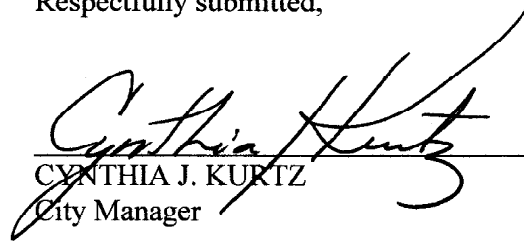
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

A master categorical exemption for projects in the Arroyo Seco that are considered to be improvements to existing facilities was completed and filed with Los Angeles County Recorder in July 2001. All existing trails in the Arroyo Seco mentioned within this report are a part of either the master categorical exemption or the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. The public comment period for the MEIR closed on September 16, 2002, and the comments are currently under review by staff.

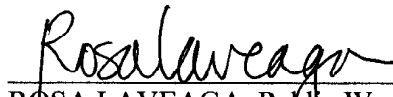
FISCAL IMPACT:

Successful award of the Recreational Trails Program Grant for the restoration of existing trails in the Central and Lower Arroyo Seco areas of Pasadena's Arroyo Seco could potentially bring a maximum of \$325,000 to the City of Pasadena. Additional funds in the amount of \$10,000 will need to be identified to cover the annual maintenance costs if the City is successful in receiving this grant award.

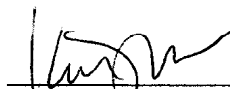
Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

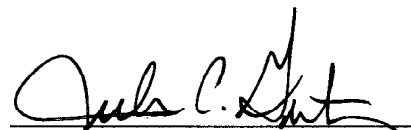
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