

Agenda Report

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2008

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION GRANT FOR NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION IN THE ARROYO SECO.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant program of 2008-2009 in the amount of \$350,000 for native plant restoration in the Arroyo Seco.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

At its regular meeting on December 2, 2008, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously endorsed the subject grant application.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California Resources Agency is accepting fiscal year 2008-2009 applications for the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program grant. This program, as provided by Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56, authorizes the allocation of up to \$10 million each year for grants to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities, and the grant cap is currently \$350,000 per project. The deadline for submitting the application for funding is 4:00 p.m., December 22, 2008.

Through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), grants are awarded to local communities for projects that offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants, and for the restoration and enhancement of natural areas and wildlife habitats near transportation improvement projects. Parks and Natural Resources Division has successfully been awarded these funds for both street tree and Arroyo Seco habitat restoration projects for the past 10 years.

Staff is requesting a total of \$350,000 for the 2008-2009 grant cycle for native plant restoration and landscape improvements in the Central Arroyo, consistent with the Central Arroyo Master Plans. Landscape improvements and habitat restoration will take place in and around Brookside Park, parking Lot I, and adjacent parkways, islands, medians and hillsides. Native plants will be used to establish a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing entryway into the Central Arroyo Seco while enhancing the native plant communities and wildlife corridor of the Arroyo Seco.

No matching funds are required for this grant. Local and community support is viewed favorably, which can be in the form of volunteer labor and community involvement in the project. Several local community organizations and volunteer groups currently participate in projects towards the restoration and maintenance of habitat in the Arroyo Seco. It is anticipated that these organizations will continue this work as part of this project.

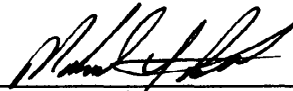
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The Arroyo Seco Native Plant Restoration project is a project of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans and has been evaluated by the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. The Notice of Determination (NOD) has been filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Successful award of this grant application could potentially bring the City of Pasadena \$350,000 towards native plant restoration and habitat enhancement of the Arroyo Seco.

Respectfully submitted:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Approved by:



Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM UNDER THE SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE FOR STREET TREES AND HABITAT RESTORATION IN THE ARROYO PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of California has enacted AB 471 (Chapter 106 of the Statutes of 1989), which is intended to provide \$10 million annually for a period of 10 years for grant funds to local, state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities for projects to enhance and mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State of California Resources Agency (“Resources Agency”) has established the procedures and criteria for reviewing grant proposals and is required to submit to the California Transportation Commission a list of recommended projects from which the grant recipients will be selected; and

WHEREAS, said procedures and criteria established by the Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application by the applicant’s governing body before submission of said application to the State, and

WHEREAS, the application contains assurances with which the applicant must comply; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the environmental enhancement and mitigation project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL:

1. Approves the filing of an application to the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for a Street Trees and Habitat Restoration in the Arroyo Project; and
2. Certifies that the City will make adequate provisions for operation and maintenance of the Project; and

3. Appoints either the City Manager or Director of Public Works as agent of the City of Pasadena to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

Approved and Adopted on the ____ day of _____, 20__.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

 12/21/08

Nicholas George Rodriguez
Assistant City Attorney