

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** MAY 19, 2008

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSITION 40 GRANT

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Arroyo Seco Foundation to conduct the aforementioned projects on the City's behalf.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF) is a nonprofit organization committed to the restoration, preservation and promotion of the Arroyo Seco. In the winter of 2005, the ASF notified the City of their interest to partner with the City on a project submittal for the 2005-2006 Consolidated Grants Proposition 40 Integrated Watershed Management Program from the State of California's State Water Resources Control Board. Together, the ASF and staff from the Department of Public Works, developed a scope of work that targeted the Brookside Park Area of the Central Arroyo Seco as the project area that best met the grant criteria.

The ASF was notified in the Spring of 2006 that the Brookside Park Area of the Central Arroyo Seco had been successfully selected as to receive \$1,930,207 in grant funds for the 2005-2006 Consolidated Grants Proposition 40 program.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between the ASF and City has been drafted to allow improvements to City-owned property in the Central Arroyo Seco, consistent with the Arroyo Seco Master Plan and in keeping with all applicable laws and regulations. This agreement will allow the ASF to receive funds and execute the projects outlined in the agreement, on behalf of the City and to achieve the vision shared by both the city and the ASF for habitat restoration as well as improved water quality.

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The project, as submitted to the 2005-2006 Consolidated Grants Proposition 40 Integrated Watershed Management Program, consists of the following activities and improvements. The ASF and the City will each undertake specific project components that together define the complete project scope; below is a further description of the project components:

1. **Parking Lot "I" Improvements:** The City will undertake repairs to parking lot I and the ASF will be responsible for the installation of vegetation islands and vegetation buffer improvements to parking lot I that will include asphalt paving being replaced with permeable surfacing. Parking Lot I will have 30 less parking spaces as a result of these improvements. See Figure 1.
2. **Equestrian/Hiking Trail Improvements:** The ASF will undertake improvements to the horse/pedestrian trails within the project limits that will result in the enhancement to habitat and reduce runoff into the Arroyo Seco. Interpretive signage will also be added to the area and include information on how trail users can help assure high water quality standards for the Arroyo Seco and will also provide a trail/visitor map of the area.
3. **Stream/Habitat Restoration Improvements:** The project will restore approximately 20 acres of riparian woodland at two separate but related sites in the Central Arroyo Seco. The first site is the northerly project site, immediately south of Devil's Gate Dam and the second is the southerly project site, immediately north of the Colorado Street Bridge. The ASF will undertake these improvements. See Figures 2 and 3.
4. **Storm Basin Inserts for Trash Removal:** This portion of the project will be undertaken by the City and involves the installation of stormwater insert devices at catch basins for an effective method of full capture of debris as required by the Trash TMDL for the Los Angeles River. All debris larger than five millimeters in size will be captured and removed by these systems, thereby preventing trash from entering the Arroyo Seco stream.

All project construction shall be completed by September 1, 2008, as required by the grant.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The project scope includes projects outlined in the Central Arroyo Master Plan, one of the Arroyo Seco master plans for the City of Pasadena. A Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) was prepared and certified for the Arroyo Seco master plans on April 14, 2003. As with all the projects proposed in the Arroyo Seco master plans, a subsequent Initial Study was prepared. A negative declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to CEQA and an Notice of Determination filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on November 29, 2007. The project was found to be within the scope of the MEIR the project found to not cause any additional environmental impacts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

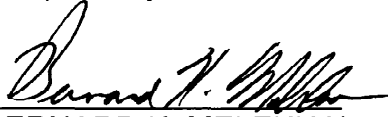
By partnering with the Arroyo Seco Foundation, the City will realize improvements to the Central Arroyo Seco that would not otherwise have been possible, since these projects are currently unfunded. This grant award to the ASF will provide \$1,930,207 in funding for the following projects in the FY 2008 Capital Improvement Program:

Brookside Park – Repair Parking Lot “I”: \$790,000  
Habitat Restoration in the Central Arroyo Seco: \$1,140,207

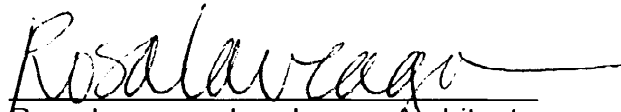
The following City projects provided a total of \$643,402 in matching funds for the project submittal by the ASF; these City-approved projects are in keeping with the overall goals for the project submitted by the ASF and further advanced the City’s interest in accomplishing the implementation of these projects.

NPDES – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program: Provided \$522,402 in matching funds  
Brookside Park – Repair Parking Lot “I”: Provided \$121,000 in matching funds

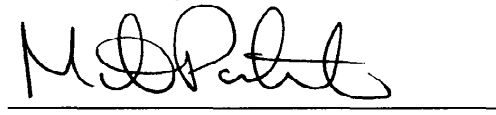
Respectfully submitted,

  
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City Manager

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Figures:

1. Parking Lot I – Vegetative Island Concept
2. Stream Restoration (Southern Area)
3. Stream Restoration (Northern Area)