

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

Date: March 16, 2009

FROM: CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: CALTRANS LEASE FOR BELLEFONTAINE STREET PROPERTY
LOCATED AT PASADENA AVENUE**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the terms and conditions as generally described below, and authorize the City Manager to negotiate a lease agreement between the City of Pasadena and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for \$100 a year for the property located south westerly and south easterly of Pasadena Avenue and south of Bellefontaine Street as well as the triangle portion in between.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2003, the Transportation Advisory Commission formed a subcommittee of the existing Design Advisory Group SR 710 Mitigation Project liaison committee to study additional measures to protect neighborhoods from 710 Freeway traffic. In November 2003, this newly formed subcommittee hosted a neighborhood meeting to gather community input from neighbors and representatives of the Caltrans Tenants Association, Singer Park Neighborhood Association, Pasadena Heritage, Save South Orange Grove, Worldwide Church of God and the West Pasadena Residents' Association participated.

Based on the community input the subcommittee made ten recommendations for beautification and neighborhood demarcation projects for the Pasadena Avenue/St. John Avenue corridor. One of the recommendations was to "create and implement a landscape plan for the three parcels of land (including the triangular island) at the intersection of Pasadena Avenue, St. John Avenue and Bellefontaine Street". In the intervening years Caltrans has been resistant to making improvements to the property. In the past year Caltrans has indicated a willingness to relax their stance based on Pasadena's willingness to pay for these improvements and annual maintenance.

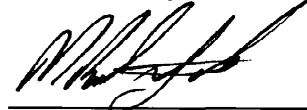
The Transportation Advisory Commission subsequently approved this recommendation and submitted the project through the City's Capital Improvement Program. The Pasadena Avenue and Bellefontaine Street Median Landscaping project was created in the FY 2009 Capital Improvement Program with no identified funding. Staff has prepared a landscape design of drought tolerant plantings and low flow irrigation consistent with guidelines of the City's environmental policies, staff was able to identify funding in the amount of \$46,750 to implement the triangle portion of the project. On February 23, 2009, the City Council approved an amendment to Contract No. 29747 with Diversified Landscape Management, Inc. (DMLI), to implement the triangle portion of the property.

Caltrans has expressed an interest in leasing the property to the City of Pasadena and has prepared a draft lease for the vacant land located at 182 and 234 Bellefontaine Street for a term of five years. The terms and conditions of the draft lease include an annual rent payment of \$100, limiting the use of the parcel for a drought-tolerant landscaping. The City of Pasadena will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the property, as well as providing the appropriate insurance coverage.

FISCAL IMPACT:

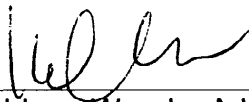
Sufficient funds have been budgeted and are available for the first year of the lease of \$100 a year in the Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Public Works budget number 765400. It is projected that the cost to maintain the property will be \$2,500 annually.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:



Martin Pastucha
Director of Public Works