

# Agenda Report

**TO: CITY COUNCIL**

**DATE: November 2, 2009**

**FROM: CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION PROGRAM FOR THE TREES AND NATIVE PLANT PROJECT IN PASADENA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

(1) Find that the tree plantings proposed herein:

- a. are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(b) (Minor Alterations to Land—new landscaping), and
- b. are included in the projects reviewed in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan Master EIR that was certified in 2003, and there are no changed circumstances or new information that would require further environmental review.

(2) Adopt a resolution authorizing submittal of an application to the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program for the planting of trees at various locations along city streets and Native Plant restoration Project in the Arroyo Seco.

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

At their regular meeting on October 6, 2009, the Recreation and Parks Commission's voted unanimously to recommend the City Council approve the City of Pasadena's application for the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program of 2009-2010 for the Tree and Native Plant Project in Pasadena.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The State of California Resources Agency is accepting fiscal year 2009-2010 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 November 19, 2009.

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. The Parks and Natural Resources Division has been awarded these funds for the past 11 years. Staff is requesting a total of \$350,000 for the 2009-2010 grant cycle for the Tree and Native Plant Restoration project in Pasadena for the planting of trees at various locations to fill current vacancies and replace lost trees along city streets as well as the Native Plant restoration project in the Arroyo Seco.

This funding opportunity has provided the City with the most significant funding opportunity for the planting of public trees over the past several years, and has no matching fund requirements. 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 tree and native planting projects. It is anticipated that these organizations will continue this work as part of this project.

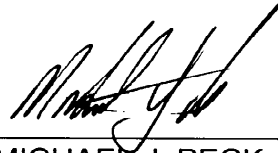
## **ENVIRONMENTAL:**

The activities proposed herein do not involve the removal of any trees. The plantings propose landscaping of public streets with street trees. It is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and specifically subsection (b) (new landscaping). The plantings also propose restoration and enhancement of natural areas near the Arroyo Seco with native trees and shrubs, as reviewed in the 2003 Arroyo Seco Master Plan Master EIR. There are no changed circumstances or new information relevant to restoration activities that were not considered in that EIR.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Award of this grant application could potentially bring the City of Pasadena \$350,000 towards the Tree and Native Plant Restoration Project in Pasadena.

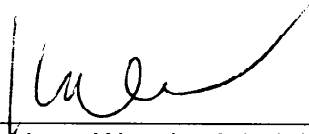
Respectfully Submitted



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MICHAEL J. BECK  
City Manager

Prepared by:



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Kathleen Woods, Administrator  
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Approved by:



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Martin Pastucha, Director  
Department of Public Works

**Resolution No:\_\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO THE RESOURCES AGENCY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM UNDER THE SECTION 164.56 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE FOR THE TREE AND NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION PROJECT IN PASADENA**

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 Natural 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 Natural 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 that the applicant must comply with; and

WHEREAS, the applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program;

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program for the Tree and Native Plant Restoration Project in Pasadena; 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:

 11/20/09

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Nicholas George Rodriguez  
Assistant City Attorney