

Agenda Report

September 12, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF SUBMITTAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT MITIGATION PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3);
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the California River Parkways Grant Program in the amount of \$1,400,000 for the UPPER ARROYO SECO TRAIL HUB PROJECT in Hahamongna Watershed Park; and
3. Adopt a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program in the amount of \$350,000 for the following project: Reclaiming Pasadena's Urban and Natural Forest.

HAHAMONGNA WATERSHED PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council support of the City of Pasadena's application to the State of California Resources Agency for the California River Parkways Program in the amount of \$1,400,000 to implement the Arroyo Seco Trail Hub project in Hahamongna Watershed Park.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

At their regular meeting on September 6, 2011, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council support of the City of Pasadena's application for the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation (EEM) Program of 2011-2012 in the amount of \$350,000 for the Tree and Native Plant Project in Pasadena.

BACKGROUND:

California River Parkway Program

California voters passed the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), authorizing the Legislature to appropriate \$62 million to the Natural Resources Agency for the acquisition, restoration, protection and development of river parkways in accordance with the California River Parkway Act of 2004. This is the final round of the Prop 84 River Parkway Grant Program with \$30 million available for awards. Eligible applicants are public agencies and California non-profit organizations. Staff finds the proposed project strongly meets the statutory requirements of this grant program including: providing compatible recreational opportunities along rivers and streams; protecting, improving, or restoring riparian habitat, including benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality; and providing public access to a river/stream parkway. While matching funds are not required for this grant program, \$100,000 in funding from the 2010-2011 Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program, which the City has already been awarded, will provide a match and strengthen the City's application.

The Upper Arroyo Seco Trail Hub Project in Hahamongna Watershed Park is the compilation of a number of the sub-projects outlined in the updated Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, all in the vicinity of the Arroyo Seco Environmental Education Center. The following sub-projects would be accomplished as a part of the implementation of the Upper Arroyo Seco Trail Hub Project in Hahamongna Watershed Park:

- *Construction of the Universally Accessible Trail Ramp*
- *Renovation/realignment of several existing trails in the upper Oak Grove area and improvements to trail crossings*
- *Construction of at least one rest area*
- *Interpretive and directional signage for trail users*
- *Construction of new trail and bikeway segment north of the Pasadena Equestrian Center, including habitat restoration along the alignment*

- *Construction of the restroom in the Environmental Education Center (outside of the Environmental Vocation Center)*
- *Renovation of the Westside Perimeter trail including the narrowing of the existing trail (in the stretch between the Oak Grove area overflow parking lot and the northern boundary of the Pasadena Equestrian Center)*
- *Habitat restoration along the Westside Perimeter trail*

EEM Program

The State of California Resources Agency is accepting fiscal year 2011-2012 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, with a grant cap of \$350,000 per project. The deadline for submitting the application for funding is September 12, 2011. Staff requested and the Agency approved submitting the resolution after September 12, should the city Council adopt the resolution at this meeting.

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 Public Works Department, Parks and Natural Resources Division has been awarded these funds for the past 13 years. Staff is requesting a total of \$350,000 for the 2011-2012 grant cycle for the project entitled Reclaiming Pasadena's Urban and Natural Forest, which will provide city-wide tree planting, native plant and habitat restoration projects in the Lower Arroyo Seco, concrete removal to allow for the planting of street trees in additional locations and tree watering in various locations. While matching funds are not required for this grant, the staff time used to oversee the project will provide a \$25,000 match. 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.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The following Council goals and policies would be advanced under the proposed action:

City Council's Strategic Plan Goals (2009-2012):

- Improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure

- Increase conservation and sustainability

Arroyo Seco Master Plans: Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan:

- Goal 1: Restore, preserve and enhance the natural character of the Arroyo
- Goal 3: Provide appropriate recreational opportunities for the Pasadena community.
- Goal 4: Provide adequate circulation, access and parking
- Goal 6: Provide a safe and secure environment for recreational activities
- Goal 7: Manage and maintain the area to balance natural habitat values, recreational needs, public health and safety

Green City Action Plan

- Action 8: Coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreational and ecological restoration
- Action 10: Provide accessible public parks and recreational open space
- Action 11: Increase canopy coverage throughout the city and canopy over sidewalks
- Action 12: Protect critical habitat corridors
- Action 15: Reduce the percentage of commute trips by single occupancy vehicles
- Action 18: Improve air quality

Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element:

- Objective 13: Develop recreation programming to promote community and families

General Plan Cultural and Recreational Element

- Goal 1: Provision of a wide range of recreational facilities and services as a means of improving the quality of life for all Pasadena residents

Master Street Tree Plan

The Master Street Tree Plan (MSTP) outlines a designated street tree for each block in Pasadena. This action would further the planting of trees in accordance with the MSTP.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

The actions proposed herein are applications for funding, and not the construction of any particular project. Accordingly, the authorization to apply for grants is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines

Section 15061 (b) (3). If the grants are awarded to the City, further environmental review is anticipated as follows.

California River Parkway Program

Components of the project proposed under this grant program are included in both the adopted 2003 Arroyo Seco Master Plans and the 2010 Addendum to the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. The project has been evaluated by the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Arroyo Seco Master Plans, as well as the 2009 Initial Study/Addendum to the Arroyo Seco Master Plans Master Impact Report.

Upon receipt of grant funding, a project level Initial Study will be prepared to determine if this specific project is within the scope of the existing MEIRs or if there is additional project level environmental review needed for any part of the project.

EEM Program


The activities proposed under for the EEM Grant Program do not involve the removal of any trees. The plantings propose landscaping of public streets with street trees. The plantings also propose restoration and enhancement of natural areas in the Arroyo Seco with native trees and shrubs, as reviewed in the 2003 Arroyo Seco Master Plan Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR). It is therefore anticipated that this project will be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), and specifically subsection (b) (new landscaping) and/or has already been reviewed in that EIR. Upon receipt of grant funding, the City will make a final environmental determination.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has the potential to gain \$1,400,000 in grant funding for park improvements under the California River Parkways Grant Program and \$350,000 in tree planting and native habitat restoration under the EEM Grant Program. If either of these grant opportunities is awarded, staff will return to Council to appropriate the funds to the proper budget accounts.

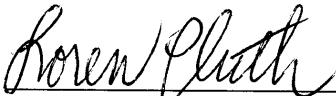
River Parkway Grant	
Grant Request	\$ 1,400,000
Match	\$ 100,000
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$ 1,500,000</i>
EEM Grant	
Grant Request	\$ 350,000
Match	\$ 25,000
<i>Total Project Cost</i>	<i>\$ 375,000</i>

Respectfully submitted,



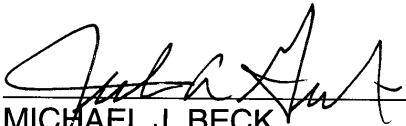
JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager/
Acting Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Loren Pluth Project Manager for Parks and Landscape

Approved by:



^{EA} MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Resolution No: _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
APPROVING THE APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM
THE CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD
CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006
(Proposition 84) FOR THE UPPER ARROYO SECO TRAIL HUB PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application(s) to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out the project:

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

1. Approves the filing of an application for the Upper Arroyo Seco Trail Hub Project;
2. Certifies that the City understands the assurances and certification in the application;
3. Certifies that the City will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so;
4. Certifies that the City will comply with all provisions of Section 1771.5 of the California Labor Code;
5. Certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, the *California Environmental Quality Act* (CEQA), legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable permits will have been obtained;

6. Certifies that the City will work towards the State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1, and
7. Delegates the authority to the City Manager or the Public Works Director to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the ____ day of _____, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:

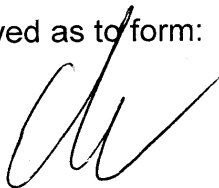
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

 9/18/14

Nicholas George Rodriguez
Assistant City Attorney

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 THE FOLLOWING PROJECT: RECLAIMING PASADENA'S URBAN AND NATURAL FOREST

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 project;

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 grant assistance.
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.

Adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on the ____ day of _____, 20__, by the following vote:

AYES:

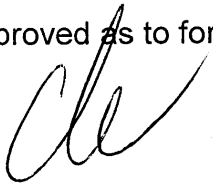
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

 9/8/11

Nicholas George Rodriguez
Assistant City Attorney