

Agenda Report

January 14, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

**SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF TWO RESOLUTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S URBAN
FORESTRY PROGRAM – MANAGEMENT PLAN GRANT PROJECT
AND LEADING EDGE GRANT PROJECT**

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 an application for the competitive Urban Forestry Leading Edge Grant program of 2012-2013 in the amount of \$70,000 to implement an Open Tree Map for Pasadena; and
3. Adopt a resolution authorizing an application for the competitive Urban Forestry Management Plan Grant program of 2012-2013 in the amount of \$75,000 to adopt an urban forest management plan.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Pasadena has the opportunity to apply for grant funding from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban Forestry Grant Program for the 2012- 2013 funding cycle. CAL FIRE has allocated funds for grant applicants who wish to develop or implement a "Leading Edge" Urban Forestry and/or Urban Greening project or program. A "Leading Edge" Urban Forestry Project is defined as a unique, forward-thinking project that improves urban forestry programs to optimize benefits to urban areas. CAL FIRE has also set aside funds for grant applicants in need of implementing or adding to an Urban Forestry management plan. The funding level of both of these CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry grant programs may be adjusted based on the number of applications received.

The grant funds are provided from the Proposition 40, California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood, Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002. Additional grant funding is provided from the Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The Department of Public Works is requesting \$70,000 for the 2012-2013 grant cycle for the Open Tree Map project and \$75,000 for the development of an urban forest management plan.

The proposed tree mapping program will adapt the Urban Forest Map to the Pasadena area as a part of a larger project that covers Los Angeles County. The Urban Forest Map is a collaboration of government, nonprofits, businesses, and residents to map every tree in Pasadena, creating additional data layers and value calculations to demonstrate the environmental benefits of trees.

This project will enhance the management of Pasadena's urban forest. With this project, the City will convert raw information on trees in the urban forest into mapped data that will help the City's forestry team establish pruning schedules, easily identify and amend information within the Master Street Tree Plan, and quantify the value of the urban forest as a whole. This project will also allow the public to view and request services for public trees and add information about their private trees to the inventory. The addition of information about private trees will allow for a better understanding and assessment of the total urban forest.

As the City of Pasadena looks to the future, it is important to continue the process of evaluation, assessment, and implementation of its plan to manage the urban forest and solidify Pasadena's place at the forefront of urban forestry innovation. The development of this document and the community's involvement in the process will allow all parties to enhance their understanding and commitment to the quality of tree care through the promotion, protection, and balanced management of this vital natural resource. The City of Pasadena's Urban Forest Management Plan will provide a centralized document that is user friendly and has community support that details all of Pasadena's tree-related policies and procedures.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

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

- City Council's Strategic Plan Goals (2009-2012) - Increase conservation and sustainability; and
- Green City Action Plan - Action 18, Improve air quality.


ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is an application 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).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City has the potential to gain \$145,000 in forestry program improvements under the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban Forestry Grant Program. As part of the matching component, the City will use staff's time in the amount of \$72,000. If this grant is awarded, staff will return to City Council to appropriate the funds to the proper budget accounts.

Respectfully submitted,



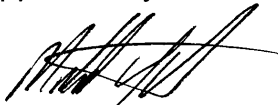
SIOBHAN FOSTER
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Darya Barar, Program Coordinator II
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
FOR FUNDING FROM THE URBAN FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM
ENTITLED, "AN URBAN FOREST FOR EVERY CITY," AS PROVIDED
THROUGH PROPOSITION 40 AND/OR PROPOSITION 84, URBAN
FORESTRY LEADING EDGE GRANT PROGRAM OF 2012-2013**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted Propositions 40 and 84, which provide funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for urban forestry programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out an urban forestry project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Pasadena hereby:

1. Approves the filing of an application for "PROPOSITION 40 and 84" urban forestry grant program funds; and
2. Certifies that said applicant has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of the City of Pasadena are available to begin the project; and
4. Certifies that said applicant will expend grant funds prior to March 30, 2015; and
5. Appoints the Director of Public Works as an 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:

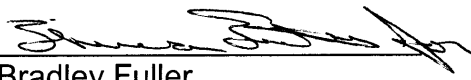
Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Bradley Fuller
Assistant City Attorney

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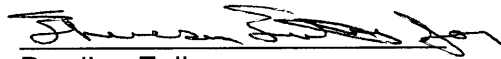
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