

Agenda Report

June 23, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO 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); and
2. Adopt a resolution authorizing submittal of a grant application to the Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program (EEMP) for the planting of trees at various locations along City streets, and a median island project along Colorado Boulevard east of Altadena Drive.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California Natural Resources Agency is accepting applications for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program 2014-2015 fiscal year. Governor Brown signed legislation on September 26, 2013 authorizing the allocation of up to \$7 million each fiscal year (per California Streets and Highways Code Section 164.56) to fund projects to mitigate the environmental impacts of modified or new public transportation facilities. The grants have a cap of \$500,000 per project. The deadline for submitting the grant application is June 30, 2014. All grant applications must include a resolution authorizing the applicant to apply for the grant.

Through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) grant program, grants are awarded to local communities for projects that offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide through the planting of trees and other suitable plants. The EEMP grant program seeks to offset carbon emissions from the Raymond Avenue Widening project completed in 2007, fulfilling "Related Transportation Facility" requirement in the EEMP application.

In the 2013-2014 application cycle, the Department of Public Works is seeking authorization to apply for a \$400,000 grant to offset increased emissions by planting trees in parkways throughout the City and rehabilitating landscaping in the center medians along Colorado Boulevard from Sierra Madre Boulevard to Kinneloa Avenue. The existing medians contain remnant turf and shrub landscaping with overhead spray irrigation. The proposed project would replace degraded landscaping with drought tolerant trees and plants, and add a Smart irrigation system.

The Department of Public Works has been awarded these funds 13 times since the inception of the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant in 1990.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant application is consistent with the City Council's strategic goals to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure, and support and promote the quality of life and the local economy.

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:

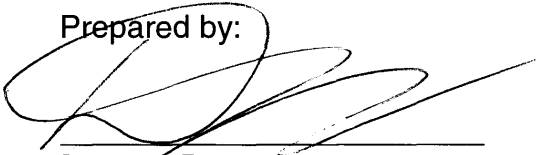
The City has the potential to receive up to \$400,000 in tree planting and landscape improvements under the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant. There is no matching funds requirement for this grant program. If the grant is awarded, the Department of Public Works will return to City Council to appropriate the funds to the appropriate operating budget accounts.

Respectfully submitted,



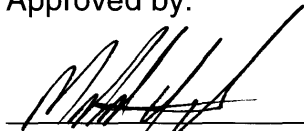
SIOBHAN FOSTER
Director of Public Works

Prepared by:



Darya I. Barar
Program Coordinator II

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachment A – Resolution for Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program

Resolution No: _____

RESOLUTION PASADENA
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM (EEMP)

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have enacted Section 164.56 of the California Streets And Highways Code, which is intended to provide 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 California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of this grant program, establishing necessary procedures and criteria, 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 established by the California Natural Resources Agency require a resolution certifying the approval of an application by the Applicants governing board before submission of said application 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 City of Pasadena:

1. Approves the filing of an application for the greener roadways Pasadena; and
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the requirements in the Program Guidelines;
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that Applicant will record a document against the real property that defines the State's interest in the property whether the Grantee owns the property or not; and
5. Certifies that Applicant will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the State Labor Code regarding payment of prevailing wages on Projects awarded EEMP Funds; and
6. If applicable, certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulations including, but not limited to, legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable licenses and permits will have been obtained; and

7. Certifies that Applicant will work towards the Governor's 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
8. Appoints the Director of Public Works, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests etc., 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:

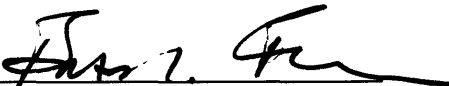
NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Brad L. Fuller
Assistant City Attorney