

Agenda Report

June 20, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Department of Public Works
SUBJECT: CALTRANS LEASE EXTENSION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 721 PASADENA AVENUE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(h), the General Rule that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment.
2. Authorize the Interim City Manager to extend the lease agreement between the City of Pasadena and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the property located at 721 Pasadena Avenue (Community Gardens) for an additional five years.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Pasadena entered into a lease agreement with Caltrans on September 21, 2011. The terms of that agreement provided for a five year lease with an annual payment of \$100.00 for the vacant property located on 721 Pasadena Avenue. The agreement called for the property to be used as a community garden.

Since the execution of the agreement, Pasadena Community Gardens (PCG), a community-based organization, developed the site as a community garden. The site consists of 54 garden plots containing 1,100 vegetable plants. The maintenance is currently provided by 300 volunteers from various higher educational affiliates. PCG pays for all costs associated with water for the site. The garden requires no financial support from the City with the exception of the \$100 lease payment.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION

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

- Green City Action Plan environmental stewardship policies adopted by the City Council in September 2006

Action 10 – Access to recreational facilities
Action 17 – Locally produced food

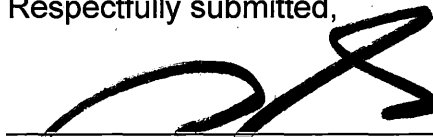
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS :

This project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1984 in accordance with Article 19, Section 15304, and Minor Alterations to Land. This section specifically applies to minor alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The lease will allow an existing parcel to be used by a community group for a community garden. No trees are proposed to be removed and no permanent structures will be located on the site.

FISCAL IMPACT:


Funding for this action is available in the Department of Public Works, Park and Natural Resources Division operating budget (account 810100-101-22034).

Respectfully submitted,




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Director of Public Works

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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
Interim City Manager