

Agenda Report

DATE: November 19, 2001

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: 2ND STEP APPLICATION FOR PROPOSITION 13 WATER BOND, LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT, TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN ARROYO SECO CHANNEL AREAS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the grant application request for \$999,670 for the Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas in the Central Arroyo Seco to the State of California Resources Agency.

RECOMMENDATION FROM RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION:

At their regular meeting on September 4, 2001, the Recreation and Parks Commission unanimously endorsed the City of Pasadena's 2nd step application to the State of California Resources Agency for the Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas and recommended the City Council take similar action.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2001, the California Resources Agency requested nominations from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for \$15 million in funding for projects along the Los Angeles River and \$5 million in funding for projects along the San Gabriel River. A small amount of this funding was made available to projects selected in a first round of applications. The Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas project was nominated but not selected at that time. However, the project remains eligible for the larger round of funding under a 2nd step application process.

The voters of California passed the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Prop. 13) on March 7, 2000. It

provided \$1.9 billion for a variety of water protection purposes, including \$95 million to the river Protection Subaccount. The Resources Agency received an appropriation in the fiscal year 2000-01 Budget Act from the River Protection Subaccount for river parkway projects. The Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas meets the criteria for eligible projects under this grant.

The project proposed for this grant cycle is the Restoration of the Arroyo Seco Stream section in the Central Arroyo Seco at two locations: a) north of Brookside Golf Course, between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard, and b) under the 134 freeway and Colorado Street bridge. The purpose of the project is to restore these portions of the Arroyo Seco Stream, a major tributary of the Los Angeles River and one of Southern California's greatest natural treasures. This project does not preclude the master plan process currently underway for the Central Arroyo Seco since the proposed project involves the maintenance and restoration of an existing park feature.

The implementation of this proposal would remove approximately 300 lineal feet of concrete slabs and other debris that now clutter the area and impact the hydrology; repair the scouring effect that powerful releases of water from the dam have caused by stabilizing the stream banks with vegetation and various sized boulders; improve the riparian and streamzone habitat quality by planting appropriate species and removing exotic species; and repair the trails that parallel the stream, allowing the community enhanced access to the stream and linking this natural area with Hahamongna Watershed Park immediately above Devil's Gate Dam and the lower reaches of the Arroyo Seco, south of the Colorado Street bridge.

These trails also link the project area with Brookside Golf Course and the Rose Bowl immediately south of the area. This project is consistent with the Cultural and Recreational Element of the General Plan by encouraging the optimum use of existing recreational facilities. Further, this project is consistent with the Land Use Element of the General Plan by providing adequate recreational opportunities to all residents of the City. To further clarify, this improvement would provide recreational access to pedestrians and equestrians and improve streamzone habitat.

The City and the Arroyo Seco Foundation would collaborate with the Pasadena Unified School District to further educate area youth on the Arroyo Seco watershed. Students would do "hands-on" projects and contribute to the completion of the overall grant project. If awarded this grant, project costs must stay within the awarded amount or the City will be required to provide additional funding to complete the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

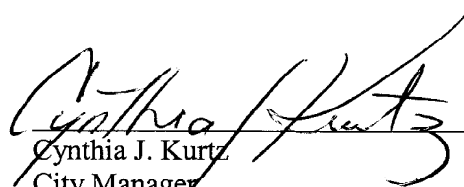
The Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas in the Central Arroyo Seco, proposed for funding, is being evaluated by the Master Environmental Impact Report for the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. The project is defined in the Central Arroyo Master Plan (CAMP), which is a component of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. An Initial Study on the Arroyo Seco Master Plan was completed in September 2000 and will be included in the grant application package. Once awarded funding, a period of one

year is allowed for the project to get CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) compliance.

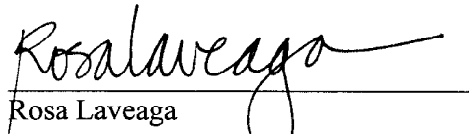
FISCAL IMPACT:

Successful award of the grant application for the Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas in the Central Arroyo, between Devil's Gate Dam and Washington Boulevard, and under the 134 freeway and Colorado Street bridge could potentially bring a maximum of \$999,670 to the City of Pasadena. There are no matching funds required of this grant program.

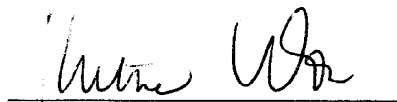
Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager


Prepared by:


Rosa Laveaga
Arroyo Seco Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Reviewed by:


Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:


Julie A. Gutierrez
Acting Director, Public Works and Transportation Department