

Agenda Report

DATE: May 20, 2002

TO: City Council

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR PROPOSITION 12 URBAN COMMUNITY AND FORESTRY PROGRAM FUNDS TO PLANT STREET TREES.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution approving the grant application request for \$50, 000 for the FY2002/03 California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection, Urban Community and Forestry Program (Proposition 12) grant for the planting of street trees citywide per the City Council approved Master Street Tree Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Watershed, Wildlife, and Parks Improvement Bond Act of 2000 provides for funding for tree planting and small tree care using Proposition 12 monies. This program is designed for planting projects less than \$50,000 and is administered by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban and Community Forest Program.

Parks and Natural Resources had received and successfully administered a similar grant in FY2000 to plant 250 street trees. The planting commenced in Spring 2001 and will be completed in May 2002. Forestry staff and Northeast Trees worked together to hold six Saturday workdays planting trees with local neighborhood associations.

Staff proposes to apply for the aforementioned grant to plant medium to large crowning street trees citywide. The grant pays for the trees, limited labor, and limited maintenance. The plantings would follow the City Council approved Master Street Tree Plan and be planted using a private non-profit organization that would assist with volunteer coordination and labor.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project proposes to cut concrete, irrigate, mulch and plant medium to large crowning street trees according to the currently approved Master Street Tree Plan citywide. The Forestry Operations section will utilize digital aerial photographs to identify the sections of Pasadena which need trees. The project includes a treeless section of East Colorado Boulevard project from Hill Avenue to Sierra Madre Boulevard as well as other areas of the city which have sparse tree cover. Increasing the number of street trees in these areas will assist with traffic calming, and provide shade and context to the street.

The Parks and Natural Resources Division of the Public Works and Transportation Department will be responsible for the administration of the grant, if awarded. The proposed project is consistent with the Council adopted Master Street Tree Plan and follows the intent of the General Plan to provide a more livable environment for its residents. Increasing tree cover in neighborhoods will have an added benefit of reducing cooling costs.

The City has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project. On-going maintenance cost is available in the operating budget. The City has the funds to begin the project. Funding is available in the Street Tree Deposit Fund account. The City will expend the grant funds prior to March 1, 2005.

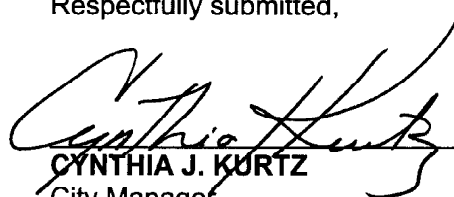
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The project would be categorically exempt per CEQA section 5301 (b) 3. The environmental for the existing Master Street Tree Plan would be used. No healthy mature trees would be removed for this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:


The grant requires a 25 percent match, which would total \$12,500. Sufficient funding is available in the Street Tree Deposit Fund account 3150 101 230053639 to provide the required match.

Respectfully submitted,



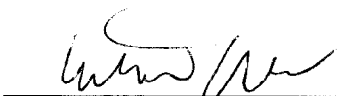
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
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